

Sharon trial jury enters 10th day

NEW YORK (R) — Lawyers for both sides in Ariel Sharon's libel case against Time magazine worked Wednesday to feed a jury's seemingly insatiable appetite to review more and more testimony as deliberations dragged through a 10th day. Since mid-day Tuesday, the jurors have sent out five notes requesting testimony on various aspects of a Time report about Sharon's role in the massacre at two Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut in September, 1982. Most of the testimony deals with confidential sources used by Time correspondent David Halevy to report that Sharon, then Israel's defence minister, had discussed the need for revenge with the family of assassinated Lebanese President-elect Bashir Gemayel two days before the massacre. Some of the testimony also deals with Halevy's feelings about Sharon at the time he wrote his piece. Sharon is suing Time for \$50 million.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Syndicate Foundation
جوردان تايمز مؤسسة صحفية اردنية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية والراي

Reagan: Soviets yet to reply on talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan said on Wednesday that the United States has asked the Soviets to meet in Geneva early in March to begin a new round of arms control talks. "We just have not heard back" from the Kremlin, Mr. Reagan said. In an interview with the Associated Press, Mr. Reagan said he has no reason to believe there are problems in setting a time and place for the negotiations agreed to by the two superpowers earlier this month. "Both countries have bureaucracies," Mr. Reagan remarked in the first interview of his second term. In discussing the U.S. proposal for a time and place for the talks to begin, Mr. Reagan said, "obviously if there is some reason that's not satisfactory to them, we'll continue trying to find a date."

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U.N. chief briefs Thatcher

LONDON (AP) — United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar met for 50 minutes Wednesday with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the two had a "general review of current international issues," Mrs. Thatcher's office said. The two, with their aides, discussed in particular Cyprus and Lebanon, but no details of these issues or others were disclosed. Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who is here on a private visit, had lunch with Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, who also attended the talks with Mrs. Thatcher.

Saudi leader holds talks in Algiers

PARIS (R) — Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Abdullah started talks in Algiers Wednesday on boosting economic and trade ties, on the oil market and on world issues, the Algerian news agency APS monitored here said. The first round of talks between Prince Abdullah, who arrived Tuesday for an official three-day visit, and Algerian Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Ibrahimi lasted two hours, APS said.

Israel sending consul to Hong Kong

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's Foreign Ministry Wednesday announced the reopening of its Hong Kong consulate after a 10-year break amid persistent reports of growing arms sales to the Far East. The mission was shut down due to budget cuts. A ministry spokesman said a diplomat would be sent to reopen the mission in the coming months to boost trade but declined to comment on the question of arms sales.

Alfonso in India

NEW DELHI (AP) — President Raul Alfonsín of Argentina arrived Wednesday in India for a seven-day state visit, during which he was scheduled to discuss promotion of bilateral ties and attend a six-nation nuclear disarmament meeting. Mr. Alfonsín was received at New Delhi military airport by Indian President Zail Singh, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, cabinet ministers and top military officials.

Famous British historian dies

SALISBURY, England (R) — Sir Arthur Bryant, the historian whose popular accounts of Britain's greatest days stirred patriotic hearts for decades, has died at the age of 85, a hospital spokesman said Wednesday.

Tureiki arrives in Ankara

ANKARA (R) — Libya's foreign affairs chief, Ali Abdul Salam Al Tureiki, arrived in Ankara Wednesday for a two-day official visit. The Foreign Ministry said, Mr. Tureiki said in an airport statement he had brought messages from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to President Kenan Evren.

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Seven deputies stage protest walkout

Lower House okays amended passport law

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament voted during a closed session Wednesday in favour of implementing a controversial passport law after a heated debate and despite a walkout by seven deputies protesting against the House's decision to vote on the issue before hearing opposing views.

The law, which was referred to the House by the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) after an amendment, stipulated that no passports would be issued or renewed for Jordanian nationals living abroad before the approval of authorities specified by the Minister of Interior. Deputies who opposed the law told the Jordan Times that the "authorities" would be the General Intelligence Department.

In a statement she gave after the two-and-a-half-hour session, Information Minister Laila Sharaf said that Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat gave deputies a detailed account of the reasons that prompted the issuing of the law.

Mrs. Sharaf said the prime minister explained "the security ramifications surrounding us in these circumstances and the protective security measures taken to counter these circumstances inside and outside the Kingdom."

She said Mr. Obaidat explained that the procedures taken for issuing or renewing passports were "normal and carried out as fast as possible without delay except for those who are suspects under security considerations."

In these cases, "the applicants for passports abroad would be called to travel to Amman to clarify the issue... these are normal procedures carried out by all countries of the world to protect their security," Mrs. Sharaf told reporters.

She said that deputies discussed

the passport law referred by the Senate in the light of the prime minister's clarification and that the heated debate resulted in the endorsement of the law which will be referred again to the Senate for final approval before going before the cabinet for finalising the constitutional procedures for enactment.

After discussing a number of issues during the open part of the session, House Speaker Akel Al Fayez announced the beginning of the closed session and asked journalists and people attending to leave the auditorium.

Journalists who stayed during most of the closed session in the House's library heard a sudden commotion coming from the auditorium and saw the entrance door opening and attempts by deputies to convince a number of colleagues not to walk out of the session which was overcome by chaos the House never witnessed before.

Asked what was happening and what sparked the uproar, deputies said that after hearing the opinions of some deputies in favour of implementing the passport law, "the House speaker suggested closing the discussion for voting."

The opposing deputies said that the House speaker, by taking that step, "aims at depriving us of the chance of expressing our opinions."

The attempts of deputies to convince a number of their col-

leagues to return to the House seemed to have succeeded when the withdrawing deputies returned to their seats. However, it was only minutes later that Mr. Fayez suggested again the closing of the discussion which was approved by the majority of deputies.

At this stage, deputies Yussef Aihem, Fawzi Toemeh, Riyad Nawayseh, Ali Abu Effiz, Abdullah Akayleh, Ahmad Kofahi and Laith Shbeilat walked out of the session while the voting was under way.

The withdrawing deputies said they intended to submit a protest to Mr. Fayez against "the violation of international parliamentary laws and the House's internal regulations."

During the open part of the session, Deputy Aihem objected to a decision by the Legal Committee to postpone the discussion of a new Ministry of Education Law. Before ending his prepared statement, Mr. Aihem was interrupted by Mr. Fayez who asked him not to continue.

In a statement he gave to reporters after leaving the session, Mr. Aihem said that the committee's decision to postpone the discussion of the secondary stage admission examination only few days before the recess of the House's current term "aims at imposing on us a fait accompli situation."

He called for the postponement of the implementation of the secondary stage admission test until next year or otherwise discuss the issue during the parliament's current term. Mr. Aihem's statement was signed by Mr. Toemeh, Mr. Nawayseh, Mr. Effiz, Mr. Kofahi and Mr. Shbeilat.

During Wednesday's session, the House endorsed a decision by the Ministry of Health to offer a license for doctors one month after the approval of the Jordan Medical Association.

Security plan going smoothly, Karami announces

BEIRUT (R) — Prime Minister Rashid Karami said Wednesday efforts to complete the Lebanese army's deployment south of Beirut, which stopped short of Israeli lines nearly two weeks ago, were going smoothly.

Action was also under way to restore security in Beirut after a spate of bomb explosions and an outbreak of fighting between rival militias, Mr. Karami said.

He told reporters after a cabinet meeting that rival militia factions along Beirut's "green line" dividing the city were being removed and militias in mainly Muslim west Beirut were closing their offices.

Mr. Karami said the cabinet was briefed by the army command on the security situation in Beirut and on its preparations for troops to take over South Lebanon when the Israeli army ends its occupation.

The army briefing on the measures "was positive and satisfactory because the implementation is taking place as planned on the ground," Mr. Karami said.

Eyewitnesses said militias closed several offices Wednesday and removed some mobile canon and heavy machine-guns from the city.

Mr. Karami gave no details of moves to consolidate the army's position in the Iklm Al Kharroub region, north of Israel's Awali River, from which it plans to enter the south when the Israeli leave.

Continued militia presences have kept tensions high in the Kharroub, despite the partial deployment of 700 troops there since Jan. 12. The coast road from Beirut has not been opened to civilians, but political sources said this could occur Thursday.

Mr. Karami said "Israel's plans and attempts to sow sedition and trouble as it publicises its withdrawal plans" were causing the government concern and spurring its efforts to get the army ready to go into the south.

He repeated his charge that Israel was responsible for a bomb attack on Monday that wounded Mustafa Saad, a Muslim leader in the main southern city of Sidon, just south of Israeli lines. Israel has denied the charge.

Emerging from Wednesday's cabinet session, right-wing Christian Finance Minister Camille Chamoun said Monday's attack on Mr. Saad had increased fears of incidents after the Israeli left.

The car bomb killed two people and injured 38, including Mr. Saad who was flown to Paris and then to Boston for treatment.

Mr. Chamoun told reporters the government also discussed security in the northern city of Tripoli and in Beirut, which has suffered a recent spate of random bombings.

Meanwhile, United Nations official Jean-Claude Aime had talks at the Foreign Ministry on a possible role for troops of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in the south. Israel says it will evacuate by Feb. 18.

Mr. Aime said U.N. Under-Secretary General Brian Urquhart would have talks in Israel and Beirut in the next two days. Mr. Urquhart is seeking ways of coordinating Israel's withdrawal with a takeover by the Lebanese army, backed by U.N. troops.



Israeli military trucks carrying heavy equipment move south from the Awali River Wednesday in the first phase of a three-stage withdrawal from South Lebanon (AP wirephoto)

PLO decides to seek UN help to protect refugees in S. Lebanon

By Lamis K. Andoni
in Tunis

THE Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Central Committee of Fatah, the biggest commando group within the PLO, ended two days of joint meetings here and took "several major decisions" concerning the security of Palestinian refugees living in South Lebanon and the future course of the organisation.

A joint statement was expected to be issued later on Wednesday evening of Thursday, and a senior Fatah official told the Jordan Times that one of the major decisions taken during the meetings was to seek U.N. help to ensure the safety of Palestinian refugees living in camps in South Lebanon after Israel withdraws from the region.

Israel announced last week that it was planning to stage a three-phase withdrawal of its troops from Lebanon, which it invaded in 1982, and Palestinian leaders have expressed fears that the pro-

Israeli militias in South Lebanon might carry out attacks against residents of the 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp and other Palestinians living there.

Immediately after Israel announced its decision to withdraw unilaterally from Lebanon without coordinating the pullback with the Lebanese government to allow Beirut to move in Lebanese army soldiers to the areas to be vacated, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat announced that he was seeking U.N. help to protect the Palestinian refugees living in South Lebanese camps.

The senior Fatah official told the Jordan Times that the joint meeting approved Mr. Arafat's decision and decided to contact U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to implement it.

Another important decision taken during the meeting was to appoint Shafiq Al Hout, the PLO representative in Beirut, as the PLO Executive Committee's special representative in the U.S. The PLO now maintains an information office in Washington, but it was not immediately clear

whether Mr. Hout would take over that office or that he would replace Zehdi Al Larazi as the PLO representative to the U.N., or that he would be a sort of roving ambassador for the PLO in the U.S.

The meetings also decided to give the green light to a fact-finding committee to probe events in North Lebanon in mid-1983 involving a rebellion within the ranks of Fatah and which resulted in the evacuation of Mr. Arafat and over 4,000 PLO fighters from Lebanon. The committee was formed during the 17th session of the Palestine National Council (PNC), held in Amman last November.

The committee, headed by Salah Barghouti, an independent member of the PNC, is charged with drawing up a report on the events in North Lebanon and the role various PLO factions might have played in the rebellion and the bloody clashes that followed it.

Iraq reports 21st attack on Gulf shipping this year

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said its warplanes hit a "medium-size" naval target "south of the main Iranian oil terminal at Kharg Island Wednesday."

A military spokesman said the planes struck at noon (1000 GMT) and all returned safely to base. Baghdad normally uses the term "naval target" to refer to merchant vessels.

There was no immediate independent confirmation of the Baghdad report which brings to 21 the number of targets Iraq says it has hit this year.

Attacks on five vessels have been independently confirmed. The Iraqis have claimed almost daily attacks this year on vessels using Iranian ports as part of their effort to cut off Tehran's oil revenues and supplies.

The latest confirmed Iraqi strike was early Tuesday morning on the 347-ton salvage tug Ribut, chartered in the Dutch firm Wit-sulder.

Iraqi night raids on ships in an area of the Gulf well south of their earlier attacks could prove a major new hazard to vessels using the waterway according to shipping sources.

Gulf shippers described the reported position of the Ribut at the time of the attack as a "worrying development." This is a congested area of the Gulf and many of its are sailing at night to avoid attack," said one shipping official.

Previous attacks in this zone of the Gulf have been attributed to Iran, which has only carried out attacks by day.

Diplomats in the Gulf say fresh supplies of French arms to Baghdad have increased Iraq's ability to strike much further south than the main Iranian oil terminal of Kharg Island, the focus of Iraqi attacks last year.

They said Iraq has received at least a dozen 12 F-1C Mirage strike jets and a substantial number of the sea-skimming Exocet missiles in addition to the eight already being delivered each month.

Iraq originally agreed in February 1982 to buy 29 F-1Cs with a longer range than the French-built Super Etendard jets it was using last year to hit shipping.

Chernenko 'ill, but not gravely'

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko has been prevented by illness from fulfilling public duties but his condition is not grave, Soviet officials have told foreign diplomats.

Diplomats from East and West European and Asian embassies said Soviet officials had confirmed privately the substance of widespread speculation that Mr. Chernenko, 73, had withdrawn from public activity due to ill health.

They said his condition was not grave, but did not give further details. The diplomats said.

Mr. Chernenko, who suffers from a chronic lung ailment, last appeared in public on Dec. 27.

Messages have since been issued in his name. The latest one, published Wednesday, dealt with the approach of the forthcoming arms negotiations with the United States (see page 8).

A similar technique was used to keep the name of the last Kremlin chief, Yuri Andropov, in the public eye during a six-month illness that led to his death last Feb. 9.

Mr. Andropov died from kidney-related disease, though officials said at the time his absence was due to a cold or a chill.

The state media never reports on the health of living leaders.

Speculation on Mr. Chernenko's health grew after the last-minute cancellation of a summit of the Warsaw Pact alliance due to start in Bulgaria last week.

Western diplomats said a senior party official, Vadim Zagladin, told a visiting French secretary of state for external relations, Jean-Michel Baylet, that the meeting had been called off because Mr. Chernenko was too unwell to travel.

East European diplomats said plans had gone ahead for Mr. Chernenko's arrival in the Bulgarian capital Sofia until Jan. 18, four days before the summit was due to open.

Israel jails six Arabs for alleged car bomb plot

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli court judge sentenced five Israeli Arabs and a Lebanese to prison terms ranging from life to nine years Wednesday for conspiracy to blow up Israel's largest office building, Israel Radio reported.

The group planned to smuggle a car loaded with explosives into Israel from Lebanon in August 1983 and set it off in the parking lot beneath the Shalom Tower, police have said.

The group's members were caught after Israeli border guards discovered the car, containing 55 kilograms of high explosives, at the Rosh Hanikra border crossing from Lebanon.

The Haifa judge gave a life sentence to Farid Abdul Halek, a Lebanese member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) alleged to be the leader of the group, the radio said.

The court sentenced Kweikas Kweikas to 15 years, the radio said. Ahmad Kayal and Farid Akawi were sentenced to 10 years each, and Saleh Mohana Kweikas was sentenced to nine years.

The weekly reported on Wednesday that the group started forming at the end of 1982, when a Lebanese active in the PFLP-GC, Issam Fa'ur, travelled to Israel to recruit Israeli Arabs for the organisation. The PFLP-GC, headed by former Syrian army Capt. Ahmad Jibril, is a Syrian- and Libyan-backed faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The magazine said Fa'ur first recruited Salah Salman Kweikas, 28, who had been released from his service in the Israeli army because of mental health problems and then studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The other members of the group were recruited for various tasks connected with the attack, including telephoning radio Monie Carlo afterwards to claim responsibility. Koieret Ramish magazine said.

Salah Salman Kweikas, named as the leader of the Israeli members of the group, was sent for psychiatric observation, the radio said.

2,717 died in violence after Gandhi murder, minister reveals

NEW DELHI (R) — At least 2,717 people were killed in nationwide anti-Sikh violence sparked by Indira Gandhi's assassination, the Indian government said Wednesday, more than doubling its previous casualty figures.

Minister of State for Home (Interior) Affairs Ram Dulai Sinha told parliament most of the deaths — 2,146 — occurred in New Delhi.

She said in reply to questions that property worth about 503 million rupees (\$42 million) was destroyed in the violence last November in 15 Indian states.

But she gave no figures for property losses in the Indian capital,

where the most violence occurred, saying they had not yet been fully assessed.

The last official figure for deaths in the violence disclosed more than two months ago by the then Home (Interior) Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao — was 1,277, with 651 killed in New Delhi.

The violence flared after Indira Gandhi was shot dead by two Sikh bodyguards outside her official residence on Oct. 31 last year.

Troops were called into New Delhi and seven Indian states to quell the four-day wave of arson, looting and murder.

S.B. Chavan, the current home (interior) minister, said in par-

liament Wednesday about 5,000 Sikh families had fled to Sikh-majority Punjab state after the violence.

"Efforts have been made to remove their misgivings and persuade those families to return to their original places," he said.

Ms. Sinha said the northern state of Uttar Pradesh was the worst hit after New Delhi, with 203 deaths and property damage estimated at 241 million rupees (\$20 million).

She said that the next of kin of each person killed in the violence had been paid compensation of 10,000 rupees (\$830) by the government, and the injured had received compensation of 2,000 rupees (\$165).

She said a total of 43 million rupees (\$3.6 million) had been distributed as grants, and many Sikhs who lost their traditional transport businesses were entitled to bank loans of 100,000 rupees (\$8,300).

In a nationwide broadcast following his landslide election victory last month, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi pledged that his government would give top priority to solving the Punjab crisis.

Sikh political and religious leaders have welcomed Mr. Gandhi's Punjab initiative but said the government must protect Sikh lives

and property before any talks with officials on the Punjab crisis can take place.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) Wednesday quoted a report by the Sikh Temples Management Committee, the community's powerful religious organisation, as saying the government and police had "instigated" violence following Indira Gandhi's assassination.

The news agency quoted the report, released in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, as saying the post-assassination violence was "a black blot on the country's forehead which cannot be removed easily."

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U.N. airlift starts to prevent famine catastrophe in Sudan

NAIROBI (R) — The United Nations has begun an emergency airlift to prevent a famine disaster in eastern Sudan, where 200,000 Ethiopians have converged in search of food, U.N. officials said Wednesday.

Officials from the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said that the airlift started on Sunday after its bureau in Khartoum warned that the situation was reaching disaster proportions.

Since late last year, tens of thousands of victims of the Ethiopian famine have been trekking into Sudan saying that the Ethiopian government refuses to feed them because they are suspected sympathisers of rebels in Eritrea and Tigray provinces.

In December, an estimated

100,000 Ethiopians gathered at makeshift camps near the Sudanese frontier towns of Kassala and Gedaref, but the figure has since doubled as up to 3,000 famine victims cross the border daily, according to U.N. workers in Sudan.

The officials said that the death rate among those arriving was alarmingly high and malnutrition was rife.

Quoting reports from Khartoum, the officials said that 80 per cent of the children who crossed the frontier were severely under-nourished. Fifty children

died at one centre alone on Jan. 14.

The Ethiopians say they walk for up to 30 days, travelling by night to avoid being caught by the army.

The officials said there were severe food shortages, made worse by the reluctance of Sudanese traders to sell food — already in short supply because of drought — to feed refugees.

Two aircraft from an Egyptian company are flying daily from Cairo, each with 32 tonnes of cooking oil, peas and high-protein biscuits in an operation that will cost UNHCR \$750,000, the officials said.

The food was bought in Western Europe at low prices, the officials said.

The aircraft will also deliver four vehicles, two for UNHCR and two for the French Medecins

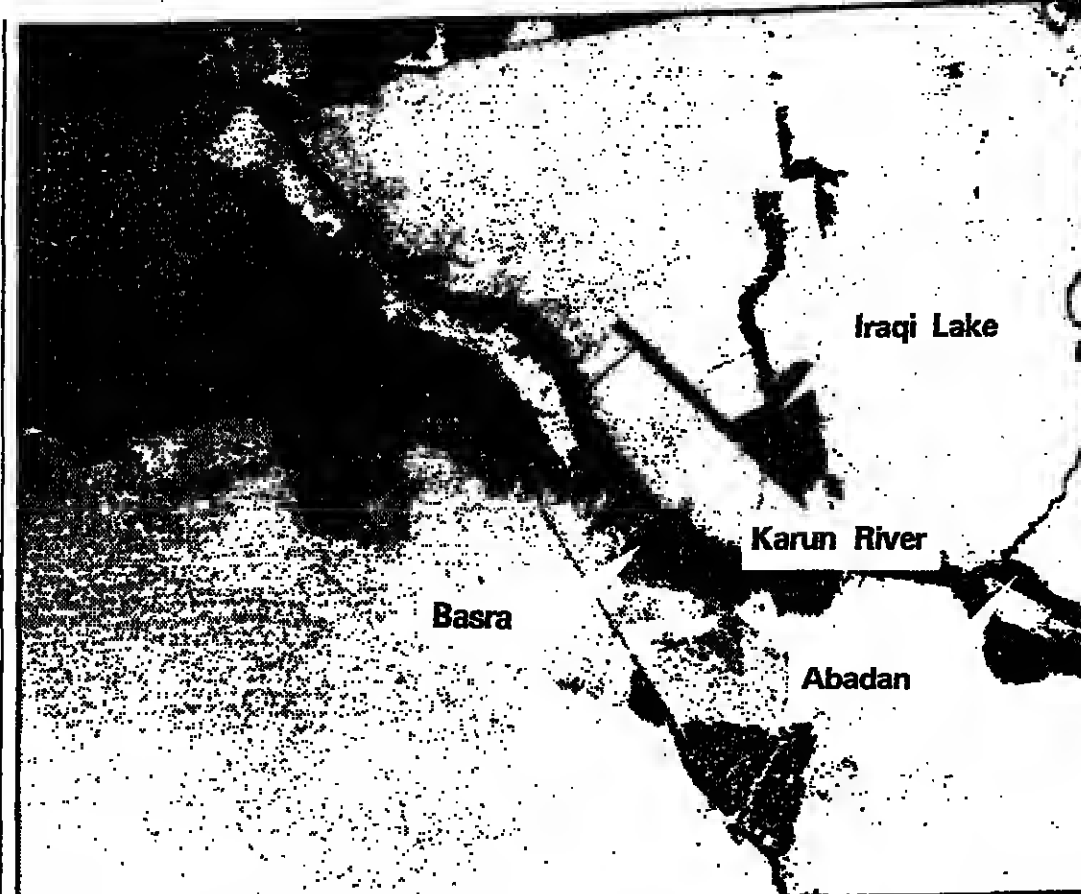
Sans Frontieres (MSF) charity. Ethiopians have crossed into Sudan for years to escape drought, military conscription and fighting between the rebels and the government.

However, the trickle became a flood late last year as famine gripped northern Ethiopia.

Last November, UNHCR launched an emergency appeal for \$27 million for Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and the Central African Republic to help hundreds of thousands of people who crossed borders to escape drought.

Pledges and donations now total \$16 million, the officials say.

Sudan, already host to the biggest refugee population in Africa of about one million, has had to cope with a major influx of drought victims from Chad as well as Ethiopia.



Mystery surrounds Iraqi ditch

LONDON — Is the vast artificial lake excavated by the Iraqis from the desert salt flats east of Basra only an exceptionally large anti-tank ditch, or is it part of an ambitious scheme to drain the Iranian rivers flowing through Khuzestan?

Analysts working for a New York-based corporation who have watched the lake grow on a succession of U.S. satellite pictures over the past four years believe that the Iraqis conceived the excavation before the Gulf War and have persisted with it because it is part of a strategic plan to recover what they regard as historic Arab lands.

They believe that the lake, and its long arms, may be the secret weapon of which President Hussein has boasted.

The project started as a simple flooded trench, about 300 kilometres long and just over a kilometre wide (about 18 miles by 1,000 yards), blocking the obvious path across the flat desert north-east of Basra that the Iranian infantry might be expected to take. But by January, 1983, it had been extended at its south-eastern end into a 10-kilometre-wide lake.

British military intelligence assessment is that the satellite pictures have merely disclosed a massive defence work — The Guardian.

3 Canadian diplomats recalled from Egypt

OTTAWA (R) — Three Canadian diplomats, including Ambassador John Schieler, have been recalled from Egypt following a probe into currency transactions at the embassy in Cairo, an External Affairs Department spokesman said.

He said the three were recalled "because of the way department regulations were being interpreted and implemented at the embassy".

The spokesman said the discrepancy was discovered because of tough auditing procedures instituted at the ministry.

Egyptian party attacks hanging in Sudan

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's opposition party has denounced Sudan's execution of a Muslim leader as a violation of human rights, the party newspaper said Wednesday.

The weekly newspaper Al-Ahly, published by the Nationalist Progressive Unionist Party, said a statement by the party secretary condemned last Friday's hanging of 76-year-old Mahmoud Muhammad Taha in Khartoum as a "heinous crime committed by the regime of (President Jaafar) Numeiri".

"This crime concerns every Muslim generally and every Egyptian in particular," the statement said, referring to special ties between Egypt and Sudan, including a 1976 joint defence pact and a 1982 economic and social "integration charter".

"All nationalist forces and citizens should declare their condemnation of this crime which violates the most elementary human rights and the most sacred and civilised Arab values," the statement said.

The United States and Amnesty International, a London-based human rights organisation, have deplored Mr. Taha's hanging.

Mr. Taha, leader of the outlawed Republican Brothers Party, was convicted by a criminal court of heresy and distributing leaflets opposing the way in which Muslim law has been implemented in Sudan since Mr. Numeiri decreed it in September 1983.

There have been 55 limb amputations in punishment for theft and many public floggings of people convicted of drinking or possessing alcoholic beverages since the law took effect.

Mr. Taha's group opposed strict application of Muslim law, arguing the message of the Prophet Muhammad should be updated to meet modern social conditions.

Four co-defendants sentenced to death along with Mr. Taha were given the choice of renouncing their beliefs or going to the gallows. They renounced publicly and their lives were spared.

Al-Ahly said that in a further protest, leading party member Dr. Milad Hanna has resigned his membership of the joint Egyptian-Sudanese Parliament formed under the integration charter.

E. German foreign minister in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — East German Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer arrived Wednesday on a three-day official visit, the Middle East News Agency said.

The state-run agency said Mr. Fischer will have talks with his Egyptian counterpart and host, Esmat Abdul Meguid, and will be received by President Hosni Mubarak.

The agency quoted Mr. Fischer as saying his country supported negotiations on arms control without specifically referring to projected Soviet-American talks on this subject.

"Humanity should not be exposed to the dangers resulting from the quest for nuclear superiority and the misuse of space for military purposes," the agency quoted Mr. Fischer as saying.

He also voiced support for an international conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, the agency said.

Egypt and East Germany are bound by economic, cultural and scientific cooperation agreements.

U.N. aide accused of defaming Cyprus

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — The Cyprus government spokesman accused unidentified U.N. secretariat officials Wednesday of launching "an orchestrated campaign" to blame the Greek Cypriot side for the failure of the latest U.N.-sponsored effort to mediate the Cyprus dispute.

"It is clear that some sort of orchestrated effort is being made by certain circles of the United Nations Secretariat to shift the responsibility for the failure of the top level meeting onto the Greek Cypriot side," the spokesman, Andreas Christofides said. He declined to identify anyone.

"This is clear from the news sources quoted by international news agencies and some foreign newspapers," he added.

"This effort was noted by us even while the top level talks were in progress in New York and President (Spyros) Kyprianou protested about this to the U.N. Secretary General who undertook to investigate the issue," the spokesman added.

Mr. Christofides was addressing his first daily press briefing following his return from the United Nations in New York overnight. He was a member of the Greek Cypriot delegation attending the

summit meeting between Mr. Kyprianou and the Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denkash.

"These efforts intensified following the failure of the talks on Sunday and Tuesday a very strong protest was made by the permanent Cypriot delegate to the United Nations to J. Pico, and through Pico to the Secretary General who is in Britain," Mr. Christofides said. Mr. Pico is a senior aide of Javier Perez de Cuellar, the U.N. secretary general.

In an apparent response to the Cyprus protest Mr. Perez de Cuellar issued a denial that he held the Greek Cypriot side responsible for the break up of the talks.

A U.N. statement issued to New York Tuesday night said Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who is currently in Edinburgh, Scotland, was asked whether he blamed the Greek Cypriots for the failure of the talks.

"No, I think it would be unfair to blame the Greeks, as it would be from my side inappropriate to apportion responsibility," he was quoted as saying in the statement.

On Tuesday, the Associated Press quoted a U.N. official in New York, who spoke on condition he would not be identified, as blaming President Kyprianou

for the breakdown of the talks. Before the talks opened last Thursday the official said, Mr. Perez de Cuellar had been under the impression that Mr. Kyprianou, like Mr. Denkash, was ready to accept a peace framework the U.N. chief had worked out with the two leaders during three rounds of indirect talks.

But, when the direct talks began, Mr. Kyprianou "came in here, opened it all up, that threw us for a flip," the official said.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar's staff was described as baffled by what was seen at the United Nations as a marked "change in tone" on Mr. Kyprianou's part since the indirect talks.

President Kyprianou has been blaming the breakdown of the talks on Mr. Denkash, for refusing to enter into negotiations to clear up important issues left unsettled in a "preliminary draft agreement" prepared by Mr. Perez de Cuellar.

Mr. Denkash has been maintaining for the past two months that he would reject any negotiations at the United Nations and that his meeting with Mr. Kyprianou, their first in five years, should be confined to the signing of the "draft agreement".

WALID A. KHURI

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MAIN CHANNEL
17:00 Koran
17:10 Cartoons
17:20 Children's Programmes
18:00 Local Programme on Agriculture
19:20 Programme Review
19:30 Week's Event
19:55 Music
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic Series
21:30 Tomorrow's Programmes
21:45 Arabic Series
22:00 News in Arabic
22:10 Play Continued

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 Itincaine
18:30 Verses
19:00 News in French
19:15 Theatre de Boulevard
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Drawing Workshop
20:30 Three's Company
21:10 Travelling Man — Eps. 3
22:00 News in English
22:15 Oscar Film: The Separate Tables

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM
& partly on 95.60 KHz, SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Verses
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show
09:30 News Summary
10:00 News Summary
10:30 Pop Session
11:00 News Summary
11:30 News Summary
12:00 Pop Session
12:30 News Summary
13:00 News Summary
13:30 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instruments
14:30 Just a Minute
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:30 News Summary
17:00 Old Favourites
17:30 Special Feature
18:00 Pop Session
18:30 News Bulletin
18:45 Good Old Days
19:00 Music
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 News Summary
21:00 News Summary
21:15 Evening Show
21:55 News Summary
22:00 News Summary
23:00 Evening Show
23:30 News Summary
24:00 Close Down

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsweek 06:30 Classical Record Review 06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:09 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30 Peculiar Choice 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsweek 08:30 Nature Notebook 08:40 The Farming World 08:50 World News 09:09 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 Cole Porter and His Music 09:45 Network UK 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 Country Music Spotlight 10:30 John Peel 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:45 Monitor 12:00 News Summary: From The Frontline Concerts 12:30 Peter Clayton's Zodiac 13:00 World News 13:09 News about Britain 13:15 News Ideas 13:25 The Week to Watch 13:30 Assignment 14:00 Radio Newsworld 14:15 Top Twenty 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Network UK 15:45 Sackbut and Associates 16:00 News Summary: Dailynote 16:30 World News Summary: Dailynote 16:45 Juke Box Dury 17:00 Radio Newsworld 17:15 The Pleasure's Yours 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Assignment 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:09 Meridian 19:40 The Week in Wales 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsweek 20:30 Discovery 21:00 News Summary: Dailynote 21:45 Stock Market Report 21:45 Report on Religion 22:00 World News 22:09 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Business Matters 22:30 News Summary 23:05 In the Mainline 23:15 A Jolly Good Show 24:00 World News 00:25 The Week in Wales 00:30 Financial News 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News: Commentary 01:15 Merchant Navy Programme 01:30 Omnibus

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260, SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 & 15210 KHz

06:00 VOA Morning: News, Informal Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Reports, Interviews, Answers to Listeners' Questions, Science Digest, Sports News at 30 minute past the hour. 17:00 News 17:30 Music 18:00 News 18:10 Focus 18:30 Special English News and Features 19:00 News 19:10 Newsweek 19:30 Magazine Show 20:00 Living Living: Open All Out 20:30 Comedy: Open All Out 21:00 Murder She Wrote 22:00 News in English 22:15 Onedio Line

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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Closed Tuesdays, Tel. 30128.

Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 years old items such as tools, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Deyrington house, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

"Whose Life is it Anyway?" Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at the American Theatre.

"A local play (The Choice) at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Jan. 30).

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EXHIBITION

"An exhibition of paintings on silk by artist Ikhbal Shukri at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Jan. 27).

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Week's road accidents claim 7 lives

AMMAN (Petra) — Seven people were killed and another 52 persons were injured in 140 road accidents which occurred throughout the country during the last week, according to Traffic Department sources. The sources added that 110 of these accidents occurred in Amman.

Committee to inspect weapon stores

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Governor Turki Al Hindawi has decided to set up a committee, under the chairmanship of District Governor Ja'far Abu Jalama, to inspect stores trading in small arms and weapons. The measure aims to ensure that these stores abide by the necessary regulations and laws on weapons.

130 enrol at Irbid nursing college

IRBID (Petra) — A total of 130 students are enrolled in the newly-opened nursing college in Irbid, according to Irbid Health Department Director Mueen Ghool. He said that 28 health centres were opened in Irbid Governorate last year as part of the Ministry of Health's plan to improve health services in the region.

Bashir instructs labels for houseplants

AMMAN (Petra) — Indoor plants, whether local or imported, must be labelled with all the necessary information to ensure better handling by owners, according to a circular issued by Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Al Bashir. The labels should include the name of the plant, watering intervals, fertilising instructions, the amount of light, ideal humidity and temperature for growth.

ACC loan JD 400,000 to Karak farmers

KARAK (Petra) — A total of JD 400,000 was loaned to farmers in the Karak region, according to Karak Agricultural Credit Corporation Director Khalid Majali. The loans were given to 208 farmers and were used for preparation of land, the purchase of agricultural machinery and tools and the development of livestock farms, he added.

Ikbal uses silk's natural sheen for detailed, realistic paintings

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At the Royal Cultural Centre this week is an exhibition of the colourful and finely-crafted silk paintings of Ikbal Shukri Tannir. Ikbal, as she signs herself, has just returned to Amman after a period of some 14 years, during which time she travelled extensively to China, where she learnt the techniques of both traditional Chinese painting and batik, to Italy and finally to Jeddah. Although she has always painted, not only on silk but on stained glass and in oils as well as completing some sculptural work, this is the first time she has ever exhibited her work.

"In Jeddah," she explained "I worked mostly on a commission basis which meant that as soon as I completed one piece I left it, so I never had enough work together at one time to hold an exhibition. I was determined, that was not going to happen here, so I refrained from selling until at least I had exhibited my work."

Silk painting, because of the soft sheen of the stretched fabric and the bright colours it tends to generate are usually decorative in nature and Ikbal has let this idea dictate her subject matter which ranges from butterflies and flowers to birds and oriental landscapes.

There is, however, a difference in the work of Ikbal that separates it from the more usual types of silk painting. The artist does not use the special glue "Gutta", to stop her colours spreading too far. Instead, Ikbal uses specially-designed paints that allow her to paint almost normally, although at speed.

"Having been used to painting on rice paper, Chinese style, whose essence is speed and accuracy, I found the technique of working with these paints on silk relatively familiar," she said.

This technique also means that Ikbal can produce highly-realistic paintings, often full of minute details such as in the study of the eagle. "I start by wetting the fabric completely and then, before it has time to dry, I apply the soft washes of the background with a piece of cotton," Ikbal explained.

After this is dry, the artist applies the foreground details using swirling strokes of a larger brush to achieve images like the flat stemmed reeds blowing in the breeze and a tiny almost dry brush to paint the individual feathers of her birds. Finally she adds touches of gold that bring the pieces to life as it both highlights her work and gives it depth.

All the pieces are for sale, prices ranging from JD 40 to JD 250. The exhibition closes on Jan. 27.



BEFORE THE DOORS SHUT: The Lower House of Parliament in session Wednesday discussing the admissions exam for the secondary stage. The session was later closed for discussions on amendments to the passport law (Petra photo)

Lawzi appeals to UAE, Qatar to fulfil financial aid pledges

AMMAN (Petra) — The speaker of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate), Ahmad Al Lawzi, Wednesday cabled the heads of state of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait thanking them for meeting their financial aid commitments to Jordan and urged Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to meet their aid obligations.

In his cable to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Lawzi expressed Jordan's appreciation to Saudi Arabia for honouring its commitments to Jordan as dictated by Arab summit resolutions. Seven oil-producing Arab nations agreed at a 1978 summit in Baghdad to give Jordan \$1.25 billion annually for 10 years, and to provide other funds to Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Most of the countries, including Algeria, Iraq and Libya, have not honoured their commitments.

Mr. Lawzi thanked the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and the Kuwaiti people for the payment of two-thirds of its financial aid commitment to Jordan.

The Senate speaker expressed confidence that Kuwait will honour its commitment despite its financial difficulties. Kuwait's 1984 financial aid was reduced by 40 per cent because of lower oil revenues.

In his cable to the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Hamad Al Thani, the speaker informed the Qatari head of state about a decision made by the Senate to urge Arab states to honour their commitments for financial support to Jordan.

SSC director asks retiring persons to register for pensions

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanians who have reached the age of retirement should immediately contact the offices of the Social Security Corporation (SSC) to register for a monthly pension or a lump-sum pension settlement, according to SSC Director General Mahdi Al Farhan.

He said that each beneficiary who reaches retirement age, 60 years for men and 55 years for women, must have had at least 10 years of continued contributions to the corporation's fund. Those who did not have a 10 year contribution can 'buy' extra years against their previous years of contribution, he said.

He added those who have reached retirement age, but not the minimum 10 years contribution, can still continue work or find a new job until the age of 65.

Working team requests assistance for W. Bank farmers

Arab League committee calls for effective boycott of U.S.-Israeli trade zone

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — An Arab League working team meeting in Amman Wednesday called for a strict and effective enforcement of Arab measures to boycott Israeli goods and products and also prepared recommendations to counter the proposed United States-Israeli free trade zone.

Secretary general of the Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for the Support of Steadfastness in the Occupied Arab Lands and member of the Arab League working team, Dr. Fuad Beseiso said that the team has drawn up a number of recommendations to be referred to the Arab Economic and Social Council, scheduled to hold meetings at ministerial level in March.

The working team, who concluded their meetings Wednesday, drew up their suggestions after studying the current situation and assessing the most effective and efficient means of implementing boycott measures against Israeli products.

Regarding the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation, the projected U.S.-Israeli free trade zone and the support of the steadfastness of Arab occupied citizens within the framework of boycott practices, the team recommended the following:

— That all Arab states have the right to use any available means of boycott, including economic measures, in order to counter any agreement between any country and the American-Israeli free trade zone.

— The listing and boycotting of all goods exported by Israel and resembling American goods to ensure that these products do not leak into the Arab World through the U.S.-Israeli zone.

— To call on all Arab states to adopt an independent economic policy, especially for grain and

basic food commodities, which are presently imported from the U.S. and that an Arab cooperation programme to this effect be implemented soon.

— Accepting that, in the long run, confronting such agreements between Israel and Western countries depends on the realisation of Arab efforts towards Arab economic self-sufficiency and that this will be the best method of ensuring Arab independence in the economic field.

— The strict enforcement of Arab boycott regulations regarding the free trade zones which state that a certificate of origin must include a statement certifying that the goods do not contain any parts produced or made in Israel.

— The listing of alternative sources for the purchase of basic commodities as substitutes for the U.S. market if an agreement on the free trade zone is signed.

— Banning the import of goods which are likely to have had any Israeli participation in their production in any form.

— Launching media campaign at the popular level to support official efforts for confronting the consequences of setting up the projected free trade zone between the U.S. and Israel.

— Applying these recommendations to West European countries if they issue resolutions against the Arab boycott of Israel.

The committee also stated that Arab boycott measures applied by the Jordanian government on the movement of agricultural and

industrial goods from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to Arab countries are sound procedures. The committee also said that these measures guarantee that Israeli goods will not be allowed into Arab markets.

Regarding the supporting of the steadfastness of Arab citizens, Dr. Beseiso said that it has agreed to encourage the marketing of industrial and agricultural products from the West Bank, especially citrus fruits. The committee said this is very important for supporting national steadfastness in the occupied Arab territories.

These products, he added, face arbitrary restrictions from Israel and competition from imported products from Europe. The team also recommended that Arab countries give priority to the importation of products from the occupied territories, especially citrus. The team also recommended that a portion of the available funds for supporting steadfastness, be allocated to support agricultural products in the occupied Arab territories. He also added that the team called for setting up a special committee for supporting the marketing of the occupied territories' products in the Arab and foreign markets and to compensate the farmers for any losses.

The team also submitted a number of proposals which aim to develop work in Arab boycott departments and to promote awareness of the boycott and the world trends which support Israel and weaken Arab boycotts, it said. Dr. Beseiso called on Arab countries to deal with the resolutions regarding support of steadfastness in the very serious manner which they deserve.

Heading the working team in the several-day meeting was the Arab League assistant secretary general for economic affairs, Dr. Abdul Hussain Zalzala.

Variation on a theme tackles modern dilemma of Arab women's identity

By Rana Sabbagh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "The Choice", is a serious and realistic play based upon the legend of Pygmalion and written by Hisham Yannis for theatrical use. The original theme of Pygmalion revolves around an artist who created a statue in the form of a woman. After she became alive and real, the artist tried to keep her saying: "You are mine", but the woman replied: "No, I am free. I am what I am".

According to Mr. Yannis, who was also the main actor in the play, "the message that I try to communicate is that when a man gives a woman her education, which implies her freedom, he has no right whatsoever to hold her and force her to remain his property." He added that he believes in the liberation of women, that women are free and that they should be able to choose their own life. He also said that any woman who asks for her freedom has to fight for it and should be well prepared to tolerate all the results of her request and she should be responsible for her choice.

Mr. Yannis told the Jordan Times that this play applies to Arab society; women in this society are 'captive' under the rule of men who dominate women. The men follow the proverb which says: "He who has taught me a letter, to him I shall be a slave". He said that he is opposed to this proverb and all it implies and this has given him inspiration to write such a serious play, reflecting the grave situation of women in Arab countries.

Challenging the image of women

"The Choice", currently running at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman, is directed by Mr. Hani Snowbar and tells the story of a woman, named 'Hawwa', played by Abir Issa. Through Hawwa, one can sense the serious attempts by women to break down walls and of challenging the image of women in society. Hawwa has found within herself, the capabilities of breaking this solid wall but she has to go against her family who did not want her to obtain her Bachelors Degree. Hawwa obtains her degree by correspondence and decides to continue for her Masters. Here she meets Dr. Loufi, played by Hisham Yannis, who influences her through the books she has to read and she later decides to leave her fiancée because he thinks that women belong to the house or the



In a symbolic gesture, the caretaker waves a feather duster at Hawwa, a young Arab girl struggling against male domination, during a scene from 'The Choice' (Al Ra'i photo)

kitchen and that they are only good for raising children — the traditional roles of women in Arab society.

Through the characters in the play, some social stereotypes such as the caretaker, played by Fouad Shoumali, who believes that the society is patriarchal, are typified and loom as large as life in the play.

THEATRE REVIEW

The director encourages Hawwa to stick to her own personality and independence, but in the meantime, one can notice a transitional change in Hawwa's personality, reflected in her change of clothes style. From a very modest girl to a sophisticated woman, Hawwa has also gained partial independence by living with her friend Riham, with whom she shares the same spirit.

Riham has adopted the 'European' way of life in the way she thinks and also in the way she dresses but the director insists that women can still express themselves and have freedom from wearing the traditional long dress, the Thawb.

Complementing society

A serious theme emerges throughout this two act play; that society should be educated in a way which complements its social norms and values in order to avoid a 'hi-culture' problem. This view is expressed by the director who wants to have education on the Arab personality and culture. A tragic element accompanies this theme when we realise that Riham

tried to commit suicide because she realised that her freedom and liberation was only a play: baseless and superficial.

Pygmalion's theme fulfills itself when Dr. Loufi proposes marriage and she refuses, going against the proverb: "He who has taught you a letter, to him I should be his slave". Hawwa has decided that she will never be the property of any man: "I am free, the choice is mine", she says.

The director has finally treated her the same way as all men, he wanted her for himself, like every father, brother and husband in Arab society, who treat women with a male-oriented attitude. Hawwa says: "My misery is that I have discovered my true self. I face a lot of problems, but I shall never surrender. I shall create a new generation who shall learn how to trust themselves. I shall walk proudly".

Technical aspects

The technical aspects of this play were carried out in harmony with the dramatic structure of the play. The set, designed by Karim Nimri, reflected the mood of the play and enhanced its mood and the movements of the actors.

The three actors excelled in their roles and the audience enjoyed the play which passed very quickly, although it was 75 minutes long. This could be attributed to the excellent script, which carried a serious message, the director's personal interpretations of the play as well as the professional actors who participated in the play.

The play will be on show at the RCC until the end of February.

RSS explores wind, solar resources for alternative power

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As part of its drive to find alternative sources of energy, Jordan over the past decade has been trying to develop solar energy and wind power. Both these energy sources are available in Jordan, unlike oil which costs the country \$600 million annually, with a consumption rate of 60,000 barrels per day.

By the end of 1984, the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) had signed an agreement with the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) under which the RSS will offer technical

assistance to implement solar energy and wind power for WAJ projects.

According to Dr. Hani Almulgi, director of the Solar Energy Research Centre at the Mechanical Engineering Department of the RSS, the agreement includes a JD 15,000 project, financed by the WAJ. The energy research centre will investigate the technical and economic feasibility of utilising solar energy via photovoltaic technology to pump water from shallow wells in Al Jafar and Al Omary where systems will be installed within the next two months. Photovoltaic applications are a

joint venture between the RSS and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), which aims to develop the capabilities of the centre in systems design and the application of a decentralised mini-photovoltaic system suitable for applications such as water pumping.

Another part of the agreement, partially financed by the WAJ and GTZ, is a joint research project on the feasibility of establishing three water pumping stations to be operated using wind power.

The energy research centre plans to install three wind energy converters at Jerr Al Rowaysh, Al Kharaneh and Al Tawaneh in

the desert regions of Jordan. Dr. Al Mulgi says that this study will be conducted to determine the initial technical and economic feasibility, after which experts will identify parts for such systems which could be produced locally and then to develop their associated production plans.

Activities, projects

Speaking about the solar energy centre's activities and goals since its establishment in November 1983, Dr. Al Mulgi says the centre has conducted studies to identify the potential applications of solar energy and wind power in Jordan in order to direct its work towards those applications which are most needed. At the same time, he added, the centre studies how these energy sources could be applied to compete with conventional energy-utilising systems. In this regard, the centre has realised that these alternative energy sources could be used in to provide the basic energy needs in such locations, since rural regions have a high potential for large scale use of these systems, Dr. Al Mulgi adds. He said that examples for utilising solar energy and wind power in the rural areas include water pumping, providing clinics with necessary electrical power for refrigerators, lights and medical equipment and providing schools with televisions to receive transmitted educational programmes. In the urban areas, solar water heating systems provide a very attractive substitute for conventional water heating systems, adds Dr. Al Mulgi.

As for water pumping, the centre had identified wells in Jordan which could be operated by solar energy and wind power especially in locations where there is no conventional electrical connection. At the sites of these wells measurements of solar energy and

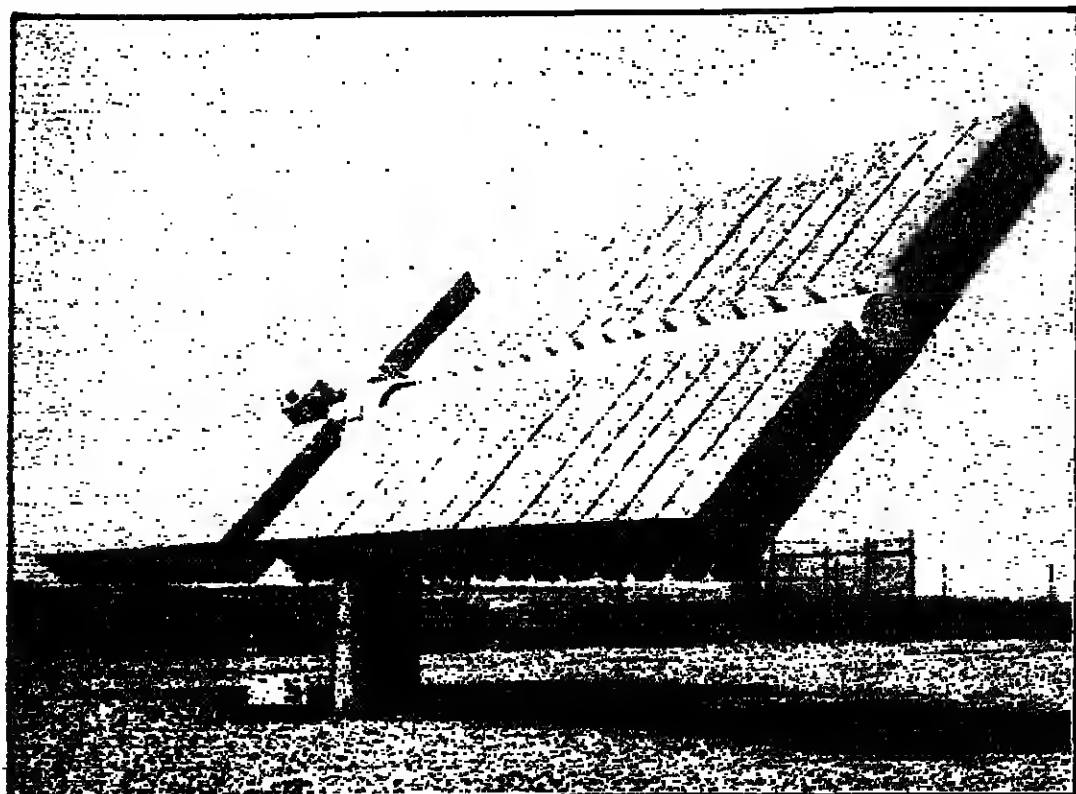
wind power have been carried out. Dr. Al Mulgi expressed his gratitude to local organisations, such as the WAJ, who are willing to support the centre's projects and he said that this reflects the progressive ideas of the organisations and a confidence in the centre's work.

The energy research centre occupies several offices and laboratories at the Mechanical Engineering Department and has several pilot experimental stations in various parts of the Kingdom. The centre has completed other projects including sea water desalination using the heat pipes principle and the design and installation of mini photovoltaic systems.

Industrial applications

The centre is currently in the process of implementing other pioneering projects in the country such as continuing the development of domestic solar heating, a solar house project and studying the various solar collectors, storage systems and auxiliary systems. The centre is also researching developing solar water heaters for industrial applications, designing a stirling engine with the possibility of using solar energy as the prime source to run the engine for mechanical and electrical outputs, collecting climatic data related to solar radiation, wind speed, ambient temperature and other climatic parameters as well as studying Jordan's energy requirements and energy services.

The energy centre is also drawing up future projects such as developing flat plate collectors for large hot water systems and solar ponds. The centre aims to conduct a preliminary study on the economic feasibility of constructing a pilot experimental solar pond at the potash production site of the Dead Sea.



High density silicon solar cells mounted on 10-metre by 3-metre arrays are currently used in Saudi Arabia to harness the sun for solar energy (J.T. file photo)

THE LITERARY CORNER

The singer poet

Haidar Mahmoud writes for all people

THE BEST introduction of the poetry of Haidar Mahmoud, a prominent Jordanian poet, can be done by the poet himself, for he is a great announcer as well. I do not think I would be exaggerating if I state that Mahmoud's recitation, particularly of his own poetry, is even better than that of Dylan Thomas.

Haidar Mahmoud was born in Akka in 1938. In 1948, and as a result of the Zionist occupation of Palestine, the poet's family moved to Amman, his first and everlasting love (he is usually referred to as an Ammanite because he loves the capital greatly). He was raised in Amman and completed his secondary studies in it. He acquired a master's degree from the United States of America. The poet led a career of a radio and television announcer in Jordan and the Arab World. He is now the director of the Culture and Arts Department. He writes a weekly column for Al-Rai' daily. He has the following published verse collections: "And the Night Passes," "An Apology for a Technical Failure," and "The Oleander Sings at the River."

Hiding behind the pseudo-claim of depth, symbolism and elitism, perhaps to compensate for their weakness, some modern Arab poets, often purposelessly, resort to obscurity, thus isolating themselves from their people whom they pretend to serve. Haidar Mahmoud is not of the kind. He writes of his people's daily affairs, achievements, aspirations, suffering, troubles and national causes, but never at the expense of profundity and elitism.

Writing of the people's daily affairs does not necessarily mean citing their problems and tragedies only, but also their glories and achievements as well. The poet sings of his country, his leader, his army, and his capital. Listen to him sing of his first love, Amman.

Amman loosened her plait over the shoulder,
Glory rejoiced and kissed her between the eyes.
O glory! Bless her mansions and lovers,
And plant with roses her entrances, door by door.

And to his country he says:

For your eyes all our songs
Ye beloved home emanated within us
We fenced you with our eyelashes
And unto thee we entrusted our wishes.

Simple poetry and yet very profound.

Haidar Mahmoud lades from the folklore proverbs and diction which he remoulds into highly poetical images and metaphors:

From all the women of the world I loved only you
And spread the heart for you
I covered you with the eyelashes
And granted you the dawn of life
And the pride of poetry

But you, "traitor of the salt,"
Ate my youngsters' loaf
And stole my day.

The poet writes of simple people's concerns and their yearning

for a better life:

Tonight I gather all the poor in the terrace of my grief
To tell them of a mermaid, who, every night
brought baskets of bread and jugs of water
And spread joy over the reapers' heads,
And over the eyes of the fishermen.
The children were like field butterflies in her hands,
She was a field of shades
For the deprived, the afflicted; and those who wait
But the sea, and the sea has madness of waves,
Found the mermaid exceeding her limits
So he tore her with the knife.

In a poem entitled "Regret for not Attending the Prophet's Birthday Festival," the poet compares between his glorious past and the sad present which is dominated by materialistic attitudes and consumption trends:

My grandfather is a good shepherd
At dawn he drives his flock to pasture
And comes back at dusk;
He calls us to join him
He feeds us with whatever God has given
And tells us of love stories

My grandfather has no television set:
That's why he knows nothing of the separation of the two
channels
Or of troops disengagement;
He does not read in the daily papers
Of the reasons of defeat in the Battle of Uhud

His grandfather — an obvious reference to Prophet Mohammad is:

So please do not arrest him
If he does not attend your festival tonight
My grandfather does not like festivities.

I wonder if the poet supports the Muslim Wahabi sect, which rejects any Islamic celebrations other than the two major feasts? Now is the time for apology. The externally and internally defeated Arab cannot receive his grandfather at the outskirts of Medina:

Forgive me, good grandfather
For not receiving you at the outskirts of Yathrib (Medina)
To sing "the moon has risen upon us."
For I fear the light which strips me
And divulges my shame
O grandfather, I betrayed you when support was needed
And sold you to the blasphemers
And, to escape alone, I threw the key
The key to the Ghar (cave).

Representing the passive sector of his people, he still has hopes that some pioneers will continue the good march:

Oh! Who will complete the other part of the line?

The poet does not forget Palestine and its warriors; he praises

the deeds of the commandos who give their lives to others:

How beautiful is the death that leads to life!
And the danger when riding it leads to salvation
And those who from the threads of night weave a dress for the
morning
And plant thorns to raise roses in due time.

Hail to them, says my neighbour
Now begins our long march
To you, beloved home.

Mysticism and metaphysics have a fair share in Mahmoud's poetry; he unites with his lover:

O love! I am you
Alone in love
My soul and yours, my jailer, are twins
With love since it came to existence.

In his prose writings (mainly in the Jordanian and Arab dailies and magazines) as well as in his poetry, Mahmoud reflects his fondness of the traditional destitute poets such as Shanfari and Ta'abata Sharran. In the following poem "The News in Detail" (notice the jargon of announcers), the poet revolts against the laws of the tribe as an attempt towards self-realisation:

There's room in the land
And this wound carries me to the warmth of truth
And slowly reminds me
Restores the colour of fire and the antique language
And I become my map.

The poet metaphysically maintains communion with nature:

In the eyes my eastern sadness begins
The river periodically flows across my blood
The wind passes a free song
And on my mouth the letters lay their youngsters and disappear

Is the poet alluding to the unity of the two banks of Jordan, even in grief? Possible.

Haidar Mahmoud's poetry addresses our minds, hearts, and feelings. It addresses the intellectuals, the peasants, the soldiers, the young and the old; it addresses people from all walks of life. His poetry addresses even the illiterate, especially that many of his patriotic poems are sung by famous Jordanian and Arab singers. His poetry can be classified as simple but hard to imitate, a description once given to the literary works of Taha Hussein, the great Arab writer and thinker.

Although the poet tends to repeat himself at times (thoughts, words and images), and despite the fact that he basically confines his poetry to his people's boundaries, he is justly ranked as one of the best Jordanian poets. He will always be remembered as the poet of Amman, the kufiyah, the olive trees, and Al-Nashama (the courageous) who:

"Love roses, but more they love their land."

— Ahmad Jaber

Randa Habib's

Do not cut trees

MUNICIPALITIES ARE exerting tremendous efforts to prove to us their "love of nature", and of trees in particular.

Every week we see on television the mayor of such municipality holding a spade in his hand and planting a tree or pointing to a piece of land that will become a forest. All this is great, but the shocking thing about the whole matter is that while on one hand we plant trees and celebrate Arbor Day with great pomp, we on the other massacre bigger and nicer trees several years old. Where is the logic behind this, tell me?

While in Sweileh, for example, everybody is proud to say that 30 dunums were planted with trees and that this will become a beautiful forest in a few years, on the Salt road at the entrance of Sweileh tens of strong trees will be destroyed upon a decision by the municipality. The reason given is that they want to widen the road. But think of this: The road can be widened by four meters without touching one single tree. The road will thus be bordering the trees and it will only be necessary to cut some of the lower branches but never to destroy the trees themselves. And if the municipality dreams of an even larger avenue (and I do not see the necessity of such a road except that it would make the drivers go faster and consequently this will cause more accidents), they could keep the trees on both sides of the road and add a lane on each side of the road. This has already been tried. In all cases, there should be a solution to keep those trees that took such a long time in grow and to avoid the controversy. Planting trees that would take years to grow and cutting those which are presently embellishing our country.

Auschwitz death camp horrors remembered

By Tony Barber
Reuter

WARSAW — Forty years ago next Sunday, the horror of Auschwitz ended. To the dumb disbelief of some 8,000 sick and emaciated inmates, Soviet Ukrainian troops arrived on Jan. 27, 1945 to liberate the biggest death camp in history.

According to most estimates, close to four million people were gassed, shot or hanged, or died of hunger, disease or hard labour at the Nazi German camp between May 1940 and its liberation.

The camp's inmates included Americans, Austrians, Belgians, Britons, Bulgarians, Chinese, Croats, Czechoslovaks, Dutchmen, Egyptians, Frenchmen, Germans, Greeks, Gypsies, Hungarians, Italians, Latvians, Lithuanians, Norwegians, Persians, Poles, Romanians, Russians, Serbs, Spaniards, Swiss and Turks.

Among those marking the 40th anniversary in Auschwitz will be scores of twins who survived the bizarre biological experiments at the camp of Nazi Doctor Josef Mengele.

Official ceremonies include the opening of a new pavilion at the camp museum to commemorate Polish victims.

Dr. Mengele's experiments, carried out on dwarfs and people crippled from birth as well as twins, were only one aspect of the terror of Auschwitz, where the average inmate could expect to live between three and six months after his arrival.

Dr. Mengele's assistant, Horst Schumann, developed methods of mass sterilisation by beaming powerful X-Rays on the testicles of male inmates and the ovaries of women.

In a typical hut built of wooden planks and tar paper, originally intended to serve as a stall for 52 horses, as many as 1,000 prisoners were jammed without heating or sanitary facilities. There were no windows, only a row of skylights.

Huts, gas chambers and enormous crematoria were constructed by the prisoners themselves, supervised by officers of the SS, the elite Nazi military formation.

The Nazis kept meticulous records of the slaughter, some of which are preserved in the camp museum. A report by the camp dentist shows that in 1942 a total of 16,325 gold and platinum teeth were removed from 2,904 corpses.

Visitors to Auschwitz-Birkenau, whose Polish name is Oswiecim-Brzezinka, can inspect the slogan "arbeit macht frei" (work makes you free) at one camp entrance and pass by row upon row of huts, as well as the gas chambers which the Nazis blew up before they evacuated the camp on Jan. 18, 1945.

Many visitors say they feel particular revulsion when they pass the window displays of huge piles of spectacles, hair, and wooden limbs which belonged to the victims.

Hair was sold to German textile firms at half a reichsmark a kilogramme for use in manufacturing haircloth. Gold teeth were melted down into bars in the camp SS hospital and sent to Berlin.

For the most part, the camp has been left exactly as it was found in 1945, although several new exhibitions recount the sufferings of individual nationalities. Original photographs of thousands of camp prisoners in their striped blue-grey uniforms adorn the walls of the huts.

Camp prisoners, herded into Auschwitz by railway truck, wore special coloured triangles on their uniforms. Jews wore yellow, political prisoners red, criminals green, gypsies and prostitutes black. Jehovah's witnesses wore purple. Roman Catholic clergy wore pink. Some inmates were tattooed.

Overcrowding in the huts, and illnesses induced by starvation such as dysentery, meant that the coarse cloth uniforms were usually torn, lice-ridden and soiled by urine and faeces.

Ill-fitting clogs caused suppurating sores which rendered an inmate unfit for work and qualified him for death either by phenol injections through the heart or in the gas chamber.

Unsuspecting prisoners were led into the chambers and told they were going to have a shower, after which they would be fed and sent to work. When the gas was introduced, truck engines were switched on to drown out the screams of the victims.

At the height of Auschwitz's operations, some 20,000 people were being killed every 24 hours. Ground-down bones of the dead were thrown into fish ponds, scattered in swamps or used to fertilise crop farms.

Those prisoners who laboured all day were forced to march back to camp after dusk in even ranks to the beat of a tune played by an orchestra made up of inmate musicians.

Some prisoners, psychologically broken, committed suicide by "hitting the wire" — camp argot for hurling oneself onto an electrified camp fence. Remarkably, resistance movements existed, but they were usually violently crushed.

Public whippings were inflicted by SS officers, with the inmate required to count each stroke aloud in German. Some people died after being chased naked in freezing weather from their huts to bathhouses. Others were mauled by guard dogs.

Auschwitz survivors are diminishing in number every year, but historians say abundant and painstakingly documented evidence exists to disprove the claims of modern fringe neo-Nazi groups that the massacre did not happen.

A large exhibition, entitled "Auschwitz — A crime against Mankind", is due to open at United Nations headquarters in New York in September. It will feature SS camp documents and engravings and paintings made by prisoners.

China works hard for protecting rare wildlife species

By Zheng Jie

PEKING — Wei Wei, a 12-year-old acrobatic star enthralled the audience during the 1984 Shanghai Spring Festival Show with his amusing and skillful antics — turning somersaults, spinning a barrel while lying on his back, pushing a handcart, slipping down a slide, and leaping into a moving cart drawn by a dog, and then picking up a trumpet in the cart and blowing it.

Wei Wei is a giant panda, and an elite performer of the Shanghai Circus Troupe. But his marvellous performance was not only put on to entertain his enthusiastic admirers — his more serious purpose was to contribute to China's ongoing "Pennies for Pandas" campaign to save his brothers and sisters who are threatened with starvation in their natural habitats since the arrow bamboo, their staple food, is now flowering and withering, leaving them without food for the next few years.

According to Dong Zhiyong, vice-president of the China Wildlife Conservation Association

(CWCA), half of China's pandas are faced with starvation. In addition to the special fund of four million yuan (about \$1.45 million) allocated annually by the state, and additional funds from local authorities to rescue the wild pandas from famine, the CWCA launched the "Pennies for Pandas" campaign nationwide beginning in January 1984, to collect a few cents from every Chinese citizen for the rescue operation.

"Since September 1983," he added, "we have received a total of 6.57 million yuan (about \$2.39 million) for the rescue operation, including \$70,000 contributed by foreigners and international organisations."

He said that 5.11 million yuan (about \$1.86 million) has been spent on the rescue operation in 1984, and the remaining 1.46 million yuan (about \$530,000) is being used to help the animals over the winter.

China is now taking other emergency measures to house and feed the animals until bamboo growth is sufficient to sustain them in the wild. Scientists and nat-

uralists have been organised, and observation posts set up with specially trained local peasants in the giant pandas' habitats, to patrol the areas and investigate the state of the arrow bamboo.

To help protect the prized animals, China has set up 40 nature reserves where the pandas live and multiply in the Sichuan-Gansu-Shaanxi border area.

This is part of a major policy to protect wildlife. China has set up 133 nature reserves, covering a total of eight million hectares. "The plan is to have more than 500 reserves covering 16.8 million hectares by 1990," Mr. Dong said.

The nature reserves are for the protection of such endangered animals and birds as red-crowned cranes, snow leopards, golden eagles and wild camels. Even the giant salamander has been given a sanctuary covering the whole of Jiangxi province.

China has more species of wildlife than any other country. Over 10 per cent of the world's species are found in China, including more than 1,100 varieties of birds, 2,000 types of fish and 400 species

of animals. "Most of them are rare," Mr. Dong said.

"There are only 21 tigers in the world and they live only in China and Japan today. The rediscovery of the ibis in China in 1982 after a gap of nearly 20 years aroused great interest among zoologists who feared the bird would soon become extinct since Japan has only three and none of them has reproductive abilities," he added.

Five of the seven species of cranes facing extinction are found in China, as are 16 species of black grouse, accounting for 50 per cent of the world's total. Other rare wild creatures found in the country include golden-haired monkeys, Taiwan macaques, South China tigers, Manchurian tigers, tufted deer, eld's deer and takin (a type of antelope).

In addition to setting up more nature reserves, China has, in the past few years, constructed a number of breeding centres for such rare animals as the rhesus monkey, sable, and the Chinese Yangtze alligator.

The Chinese Yangtze Alligator Breeding Centre set up in 1983 has an underground room for hibernating alligators and a 1.6-hectare breeding area in Wuhan, capital of Hubei province, where the alligators are found. Chinese zoologists have succeeded in artificially breeding rare alligators from eggs laid in captivity.

China has passed laws and regulations to protect wildlife, as have local governments. The regulations, issued in 1983, on the protection of wildlife spell out penalties for hunting, killing or sale of wildlife without permission and restrictions on the export of animals and animal-based products, as well as regulations on firearms.

At present, there are over 100 endangered species of wildlife in China. "So it is an urgent task to let more people know the importance of wildlife protection," Mr. Dong said.

Since 1981, all China's 21 provinces, five autonomous regions and the three municipalities of Peking, Shanghai and Tianjin have undertaken campaigns to educate the people on the im-



In the last three years, panda experts at the Chengdu Zoo have achieved happy results with their artificial insemination programme. Female panda Mei Mei has given birth to three cubs in succession conceived by artificial insemination (China News Photo)

portance of protecting wildlife. And beginning in 1983, one week in April has been designated as "Love-the-Birds Week" in China. Similar activities include "Protect-the-Birds Month" and "Love-the-Panda Week."

"The educational activities have had good results," Mr. Dong said. Zhang Jiliang, a hunter in Sichuan province's Baoxing county, known as the "Home of the Giant Pandas," has now hung up his gun and sent away his three hunting dogs. "I'm glad to do so," Mr. Zhang said, "though it means a loss of about 1,000 yuan (about \$360) a year to me."

"The local government will appropriate a special fund to compensate for the local people's economic losses," Mr. Dong said.

A local animal protection organisation in Guangdong province

in south China reported that the number of rhesus monkeys has increased from 60 several years ago to over 500 today, following the setting up of the Nanwan Reserve on Hainan Island, and the peasants in Yunnan province's Mengla county in southwest China also reported that wild elephants, which deserted the area long ago when hill slopes were blasted to open up farmland, have begun returning to their traditional habitat in the tropical forests.

"Through a massive publicity campaign nationwide," Mr. Dong asserted, "more and more people will know the importance of wildlife protection — preserving nature in its most colourful variations, which is part and parcel of the welfare of mankind." — China features.



Rhesus monkeys under protection in their habitat on China's Hainan Island

Harlem may be revived, but some fear the poor will be forced out

By Joanne Kenen
Reuter

NEW YORK — The Apollo Theatre, where Billie Holiday sang, Bill "Bojangles" Robinson danced and Count Basie's orchestra played, is coming back — a harbinger of what some predict will be a Harlem renaissance.

Called the black capital of the United States, Harlem once inspired jazz and poetry, black pride and black hope. But over the past 30 years, or so, the more prosperous blacks have moved away and Harlem has deteriorated into a slum permeated with crime, drugs and despair.

Now, scaffolding hugs the fac-

ade of the 72-year-old Apollo, soon to reopen as an entertainment complex after nine years of almost constant disuse and darkness. On nearby streets, decaying buildings are being rehabilitated.

Real estate experts agree that "gentrification," the refurbishing of rundown neighbourhoods by well-to-do professional people that has swept other parts of Manhattan, is closing in on Harlem.

The question facing the community's residents, mostly poor blacks and Hispanics, is whether a reborn, more prosperous Harlem will have room for them.

"It's the law of physics — financial physics," says Galen Kir-

kland, a lawyer for a community group. "The property will be developed. What determines who occupies it is who can pay."

Harlem is a 10-square-kilometre area of northern Manhattan Island running between 110th Street on the south and 155th Street on the north, and between Fifth Avenue to the east and Broadway to the west.

A visitor can see that young middle-class blacks are moving back to Harlem, bolstering the middle-class enclaves such as the elegant turn-of-the-century townhouses on Strivers Row that have flourished even during Harlem's worst years.

New condominium apartment buildings, including some supported by a development group headed by former Chase Manhattan Bank Chairman David Rockefeller, are going up in southern Harlem overlooking Central Park.

At the same time affluent whites are "gentrifying" neighbourhoods on Harlem's borders, displacing the blacks, Hispanics and poor whites who had lived there.

Some people who live and work in Harlem believe that a few years from now, Harlem too will have been "gentrified."

In the late 1800s, before mass travel, Harlem was home to rich, famous, white New Yorkers. Attractive brownstone houses, sturdy apartment buildings and a few mansions from then remain.

Today, housing is among Harlem's most serious problems. Many blocks of buildings have been abandoned, boarded up and vandalised, the tenants scattered to slums in distant neighbourhoods, shelters for the homeless, or the streets.

New York City has foreclosed on many dilapidated properties because of unpaid taxes and is now the area's biggest landlord.

Neither the city, nor the handful of private developers working in Harlem, nor any of the community or church groups have dented the

housing crisis.

"The number of units being lost each year far exceeds the number being rehabilitated or rebuilt," says a report by the Harlem Urban Development Corporation.

"A piecemeal approach is inadequate. You need a comprehensive plan," says The Reverend Moran Weston, the retired minister of St. Philip's Church, which was rehabilitated or built 615 housing units in the past decade.

Nevertheless, the housing stock, and the superb architecture, are potential assets for Harlem which ghettos like the South Bronx or other slums do not share. Harlem is also prime Man-

hattan real estate, a short subway ride from the city's business district and close to major highways, tunnels and bridges.

"It's the most centrally located piece of property in America," says Lloyd Williams, a black businessman who heads the local chamber of commerce.

Most important, Harlem is Harlem. It is the home of some of America's most important black churches, political leaders and cultural institutions.

It is where Marcus Garvey and Malcolm X expounded their causes, where Langston Hughes wrote his poems, where Billie Holiday, Cab Calloway, and Duke Ellington became legends, performing at nightspots like The

Apollo, The Cotton Club and The Savoy.

Mr. Weston, who does not foresee major changes in Harlem's racial make-up, says the traditions and institutions will continue to anchor blacks to the community.

These factors also explain the lure Harlem has for young middle-class blacks like Chuck Sutton, 34-year-old nephew of Percy Sutton, a prominent black politician and businessman who is behind the Apollo renovation.

Chuck Sutton moved to Harlem last December and now dreams of a Harlem cultural renaissance. "There's something to be part of here," he says. "I want to be part of the rebuilding."

McEnroe in pursuit of 4th pro indoor title

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Top seeds John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors on Tuesday found out who they'll face when they open play in the \$300,000 U.S. Pro Indoor Tennis Championship here.

McEnroe, seeded No. 1 and in

pursuit of his fourth straight championship here, is to play against American Marty Davis on the opening day.

Connors, who has already won the title four times and is seeded No. 2, is to face Lief Shiras. Both top seeds drew first-round byes.

"I've never played Connors before," Shiras said. "I hope to hit hard and get aggressive and give it my best shot... hopefully, if I can hang in there early and even get ahead of him, I may be able to throw him off."

Clash with Mary Decker at Olympics forgotten, Budd says

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) — Zola Budd said Wednesday she had forgotten about her much-publicised clash on the track with American idol Mary Decker at last summer's Olympic Games and that she was looking forward to the future.

The 18-year-old South African-born runner told a press conference: "The incident with Mary Decker has been taken out of proportion. She is just another runner. I am feeling it all in the past and that it is best to look ahead."

Budd became a British citizen 10 months ago in order to compete at the Olympics. But during the 3,000 metres final at Los Angeles, Budd and Decker, the race favourite, were involved in a clash of legs. The American crashed out the race and Budd, who continued to run amid a storm of booing, finished seventh.

Immediately afterwards, the waif-like Budd returned to South Africa and announced she would take up running there again. Two days before she was due to compete, she agreed to postpone her comeback when advised that she faced a worldwide ban.

Budd returned to Britain last weekend to continue her international athletics career and runs her first race since the Olympics on Friday when she competes in the 1,500 metre heats at an indoor event at Cosford.

The final, for which she is expected to qualify easily, is on Saturday. After trying out the track for the first time Wednesday, she told reporters she will appear barefoot, her preferred style.

Budd has never raced indoors before and said: "On the bends it felt as if one leg was longer than the other."

In her last race in Britain in July, Budd broke the 2,000 metres world record but said she would not be seeking a world best at Cosford. "I just want to get used to running indoors," she said.

Budd, dressed in a track suit and markedly more confident, said she planned to move up to

3,000 metres for this summer's Grand Prix events in Europe.

She also confirmed she would be running in a road race at Phoenix, Ariz., on March 2.

Budd said she hoped to run in the 10,000 metres at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul but that her long-term goal was to be a marathon runner.

Asked to comment on the events of 1984, when she burst upon the international scene after deciding to emigrate to Britain, Budd said she would have preferred more time to prepare for the Olympics.

"The tragedy of the whole thing is that I came over to Britain in the year of the Olympics," she said. "It would not have been so bad if the year I had come over had not been an Olympic year. It would have been better if the Olympics had been in 1986."

Before leaving the press conference, staged at a Birmingham hotel near the Cosford stadium, Budd was presented with a junior Athlete of the Year award by the British Athletics Writers Association.

Australian Games start Saturday

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — The inaugural Australia Games event in the city since the 1956 Olympic Games, will mark one of the first occasions since Los Angeles that American and Western European athletes will compete against Soviet-bloc athletes who boycotted the last Olympics.

World 100 metres record holder Calvin Smith and Los Angeles Olympic cycling gold medalist Mark Gorski head the contingent of American athletes.

The games, the biggest sports event in the city since the 1956 Olympic Games, will mark one of the first occasions since Los Angeles that American and Western European athletes will compete against Soviet-bloc athletes who boycotted the last Olympics.

Most of the leading names in track and field and swimming have opted out of the games largely because it is out-of-season for northern hemisphere countries, but outstanding competitors is expected in both weightlifting and gymnastics.

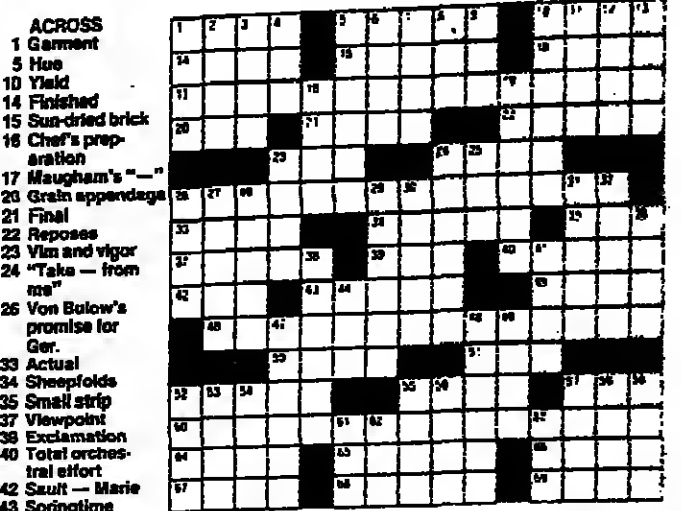
Jordan to attend ministers meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in the 8th round of the Council of Arab Youth and Sports Ministers to be held in Algiers on Jan. 27.

The five-day meeting will discuss reports on the activities of Arab youth and sports, the support to the South Lebanese youth and the Arab youth and sports fund.

Jordan will be represented by the Director General of Jordan Youth Organisation Mohammad Abu Tayyeb, his assistant Akram Masarweh and a Jordan embassy official.

THE Daily Crossword By Frank R. Jackson



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ACROSS
1 Garment
5 Hue
10 Yield
14 Flashed
15 Sun-dried brick
16 Chef's preparation
17 Maugham's "—"
20 Grain appendage
21 Final
22 Repose
23 Via and vigor
24 "Take — from me"
25 Von Bülow's promise for Ger.
33 Actual
34 Sheepfold
35 Small strip
37 Viewpoint
38 Exclamation
40 Total orchestral effort
42 Swift — Marie
43 Springtime drought
45 Boon or Anjou
46 One-time 80-day trip
50 Concept: pref.
51 Negative prefix
52 Basketry fiber
55 Calendar feature
57 Holiday time
60 Feelings of elation
64 Cornucopia
65 Landed estate
66 Phuck
67 Casual of fashion
68 Prayer words
69 Hackman
DOWN
1 Stupor
2 Declare without reservation
3 Laborer
4 Sea eagle
5 Hors d'oeuvre
6 Belton's concern
7 At sea
8 Jap. sash
9 Harrison the actor
10 Moves slyly
11 Ages
12 Passageway
13 Spot markers
18 Guinness or Templeton
19 Clergyman
23 — Wall
24 Fasten
25 Article
26 Measles
27 Five: pref.
28 Brewmaster's product
29 "Anything you can do, —"
30 Kind of pitching fast
31 Complete
32 Of birth
36 Flyer
38 Chopin pieces
41 Alop
44 Unit
47 Drier's item
48 Comes into
49 Its
52 Rallo words
53 Certain plane
54 Wood
55 Cooked
56 In a while
57 Bronie's Jane
58 Blood carrier
59 A. family name
61 — Yankee
62 Doodle...
63 Bus. exp.
64 Henhouse product

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS
1. GARDEN
5. BLUE
10. YIELD
14. FLASH
15. SUN-DRIED
16. CHEF'S
17. MAUGHAM'S
20. GRAIN
21. FINAL
22. REPOSE
23. VIA
24. TAKE
25. VON BÜLOW
33. ACTUAL
34. SHEEPFOLD
35. STRIP
37. VIEWPOINT
38. EXCLAMATION
40. ORCHESTRAL
42. SWIFT
43. SPRINGTIME
45. BOON
46. ANJOU
48. HARRISON
49. SLIP
50. AGE
51. PASSAGE
52. BASKETRY
53. SPOT
54. GUINNESS
55. CLERGYMAN
56. FASTEN
57. WALL
58. PHUCK
59. CASUAL
60. PRAYER
61. HACKMAN
62. BRONIE
63. BUS
64. HENHOUSE
65. COMES
66. ITS
67. RALLO
68. CERTAIN
69. WOOD
70. COOKED
71. IN A WHILE
72. BRONIE
73. BLOOD
74. FAMILY
75. YANKEE
76. DOODLE
77. BUS
78. HENHOUSE

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Assets of Kuwaiti banks hit record of \$33 billion

KUWAIT (R) — The assets of Kuwaiti commercial banks rose above 10 billion dinars (\$33 billion) for the first time last November, more than doubling their combined balance sheet five years earlier, the central bank said Wednesday.

The central bank's latest monthly monetary review showed its own assets, at 1.96 billion dinars (\$6.5 billion), also doubled over the same period.

The aggregate balance sheet of Kuwait's seven commercial banks, at 10.13 billion dinars, was boosted strongly by a 23 per cent rise last November in central bank discount, rediscount, deposit and loan facilities.

A 9.5 per cent jump in private sector deposits and 9.0 per cent rise in interbank dealings also helped swell the commercial banking system's balance sheets last November, the review said.

Deposits in foreign currency fell for the fifth month running, due partly to higher interest offered for investments in Kuwaiti dinar accounts compared with rates for dollar deposits.

Also, Kuwait's managed exchange rate policy, under which the central bank is able to control capital movements by the rates it sets, daily against the dollar, checked earlier flows of funds into the U.S. currency and encouraged a shift to dinar deposits.

PIA cancels cooperation agreement with Gulf Air

BAHRAIN (R) — The Bahrain-based carrier Gulf Air said Wednesday Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) had cancelled an agreement between the two airlines whereby they honoured each other's tickets.

A Gulf Air official said the cancellation followed disputes over money and Gulf Air demands for equal treatment.

A PIA official here confirmed the interline agreement was cancelled from Feb. 10 but said he could not give more details.

When the accord expires, a passenger using both airlines for two legs of trip between Pakistan and the Gulf will have to buy a separate ticket from each carrier.

A press release issued Wednesday by Gulf Air quoted local press reports as saying PIA severed the accord because Gulf Air owed almost \$1 million to PIA for carrying Gulf Air passengers to northern points in Pakistan from Karachi.

Gulf Air denied owing any money.

It said the heart of the dispute was Gulf Air's request to fly between the Gulf and northern cities in Pakistan, on the grounds that PIA already does the same.

Orthodox Jews retaliate against Bank Leumi plan

TEL AVIV (R) — Orthodox Jews have withdrawn about \$10 million from Bank Leumi, Israel's largest bank, in a dispute over its involvement in a construction project which rabbis claim desecrated ancient graves, a Leumi spokesman said Wednesday.

The association of banks in Israel published an appeal in newspapers Wednesday urging the orthodox community to end the boycott, which began last Sunday.

The dispute is over the construction of a 140-room wing at the Ganei Hamat Hotel near the Sea of Galilee. The hotel belongs to Africa-Israel Development — a Bank Leumi affiliate — and to a West German bank.

The rabbis calling the boycott said the wing was being built on an ancient Jewish graveyard. Although its existence at the site has never been clearly proven, under ritual law fear that graves could be in the area has caused observant Jews to try to stop any possible desecration.

Bank Leumi spokesman Mr. Uri Galili told Reuters exterior work at the site had been halted until settlement of the dispute, and said the bank was trying to negotiate a settlement with a committee of rabbis.

"We've already invested \$1.5 million in changes at the site at the request of the chief rabbi," Mr. Galili said.

Lagos to set up data bank

LAGOS (OPECNA) — Nigeria is to set up an industrial data bank, Commerce and Industry Minister Mahmud Tukur said Tuesday.

In an address at the 21st anniversary celebration of the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank (NIDB), Dr. Tukur said the bank would be used to monitor the inventory and production levels of Nigerian industries.

He said total investments in NIDB-assisted projects were estimated at \$3.7 billion, and the bank had contributed to the removal of some obstacles to industrialisation through its technical assistance programme.

The minister urged other financial institutions to "contribute significantly" to the economic development of the country, stating that the federal government could not bear the burden alone.

He also urged the NIDB to ensure its new projects were designed to use locally available materials.

Inflation in U.S. stays low

WASHINGTON (R) — Inflation in the United States remained low for the third successive year in 1984, with consumer prices rising only four per cent, the Labour Department reported Wednesday.

Although last year's rise in the consumer price index (CPI) was slightly above the increases of 3.8 and 3.9 per cent during the previous two years, inflation remained well below the 12 per cent rate that prevailed when President Reagan took office in Jan. 1981.

The index rose 0.2 per cent in December after an identical rise in November.

Mr. Reagan has made low inflation a primary target of his conservative economic policies, relying on tight monetary control and high interest rates to squeeze inflationary pressures out of the economy. The strong dollar has also helped.

And while the economy itself went into severe recession during Mr. Reagan's first two years at the White House, figures released Tuesday showed 1984 to be the best year for growth since 1951, with gross national product (GNP) up 6.8 per cent.

Meanwhile, revolutionary changes in U.S. agriculture policies are to be proposed by the Reagan administration. Agriculture Secretary John Block has told the New York Times.

Since the mid-1930s, agriculture policy has been based on government attempts to stabilise farm prices by paying farmers to produce less and supplementing farm income in various ways.

Mr. Block said in his interview with the Times published Wednesday that the new proposals would less government presence in the marketplace.

IMF inspects Turkish economy

ANKARA (R) — A delegation from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is currently in Ankara for talks with officials as part of a review of the Turkish economy, central bank governor Mr. Yavuz Cansevi said.

He told Reuters the delegation, headed by Turkey desk chief Mr. Geoffrey Tyler, is reviewing the performance of the economy in 1984 and prospects for 1985.

Monetary limits to which Turkey agreed to comply in a letter of intent submitted to the fund for a one-year standby agreement are also under scrutiny.

Under the agreement, which expires in April, Turkey was to receive 225 million Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) from the fund. It has so far received three tranches of 62.5 million SDRs each, Mr. Cansevi said.

"The last tranche is expected to be released by the fund following the findings of the mission in Ankara later this month or in early February," Mr. Cansevi said.

Bankers point to decline of most-prized currency

ZURICH (R) — Quietly, without hitting the headlines, the once-mighty Swiss franc keeps getting softer.

In 1984 it fell not only against the dollar but also against the mark, the yen, and even the French franc. Only the British pound proved weaker.

And since the start of 1985 the slide has accelerated. "Without doubt, the Swiss franc is the weakest currency in Europe," Credit Suisse chief economist Mr. Hans Mast says. This month the mark settled above 84 Swiss centimes and the yen rose above 1.05 centimes for the first time since 1974.

Just over a year ago, at the start of 1984, a U.S. dollar bought only 2.18 Swiss francs, while today it is worth about 2.67 francs — a decline in the franc's value of 18.5 per cent.

Zurich bankers are divided over whether the franc is about to lose its traditional role as the world's favourite "safe haven" currency.

Mr. Hubert Baschmagel, a member of the executive board of the Swiss Bank Corporation, believes its image as the world's most stable currency is untarnished by the longer view. Mr. Mast agrees: "The Swiss franc has not played out its role yet."

Zurich investment banker Mr. Nicolas Baer, however, perceives a steady erosion of the Swiss franc's special role. And increasingly, investors appear to agree with him.

More and more Swiss are deserting traditional domestic savings accounts, which currently pay interest of only 3½ per cent, and bidding for Eurobonds denominated in other currencies.

All bankers contacted attribute most of the Swiss franc's current weakness to the low level of real interest rates, which exceed the country's inflation rate by only

about two percentage points, compared with around four points in West Germany and five or six points in the United States.

Although Switzerland ran a foreign trade deficit of nearly 8.4 billion francs (\$3.1 billion) last year, its economy is still strong, and the shortfall is not likely to push up interest rates.

In any case, Mr. Baer says, low interest rates are only one reason for the franc's weakness.

If the dollar falls, the Swiss unit is not certain to regain its old status, he says, adding that its reputation began fading a long time ago.

"You can even put a date on it — 1979, when the Soviets marched into Afghanistan," Mr. Baer adds. "Switzerland just isn't on the right side of the Atlantic."

Central banks leave currency dealers guessing

Meanwhile, after discreetly showing their face on currency markets Tuesday, Europe's central banks retreated to the wings Wednesday leaving dealers guessing as to when they will next strike to check the dollar.

In their absence, the dollar crept higher to 3.1745 German marks from its close in London Tuesday night of 3.17 marks. It was "fixed" in Frankfurt at 3.1739 marks from 3.1650 Tuesday.

Reports about a cut in the price of Saudi marker crude further reduced confidence in sterling ahead of next week's OPEC meeting in Geneva.

The pound fell to \$1.1140 before recovering to \$1.1165, still four-fifths of a cent below its close Tuesday night.

OPEC denies report on plans to alter marker crude price

VIENNA (R) — The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Wednesday strongly denied a newspaper report that its pricing experts had recommended a reduction in the cost of its marker crude, the OPEC News Agency OPECNA said.

Mr. Fadil Al Chalabi, OPEC deputy secretary-general, described as "totally untrue" a report in the Riyadh-based, English-language Arab News that the OPEC experts, who met at the weekend in Saudi Arabia, had agreed to reduce by \$2.50 the \$29 per barrel price of Arabian light.

Mr. Chalabi, who participated in the two-day meeting, said that at no time was the price of the marker crude discussed, OPECNA reported.

"The committee devoted its attention exclusively to the problems of price differentials between the various OPEC crudes, especially to the price difference between the African extra light

crudes and the heavy crudes produced in the Gulf," he said.

Mr. Chalabi said the experts' report would be reviewed by the full ministerial committee on differentials which meets in Geneva, on Sunday, OPECNA said.

Algeria, Kuwait, Nigeria, Qatar, Libya, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are committee members.

The Jeddah-based Arab News Tuesday quoted oil industry sources for its story that the experts' committee had agreed on the cut in the benchmark price.

The traders said a \$2.50 cut in the price of Arab light was inconceivable as it would bring it level with Arab heavy, which was raised 50 cents to \$26.50 after OPEC's Christmas meeting.

It would also push Arab light well below Arab medium, which was increased in price after the conference and now stands at \$27.65, they said.

Until the end of last year,

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed sharply lower after a moderately active session and at 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was off 22.7 to 1,283.0 having touched a low of 1,280.3.

Profit-taking after the recent sharp advance was triggered by renewed concern over sterling which eased to 70.8 from 71.3 in trade weighted terms. The forecast of a substantial fall in second half profits by Racal contributed to the decline while early defensive marking down was prompted by press reports, since denied by OPEC, that the marker price of Arabian light crude had been recommended to be cut by \$2½ from \$29.

Gold declined and North Americans were mixed. Racal fell 48p to 240 after half year results and the forecast that second half results will be substantially lower than expectations, dealers said.

Other leading issues closed a few pence above lowest levels with ICI 6p off at 81.6 after 808, BTR fell 13p to 661. GEC shed 8p to 204 and Glaxo lost 18p at 1240.

Barclays eased 7p among banks. Royal Insurance lost 12p to 561 and in oils, Shell gave up 13p at 700 after 693.

Rank Organisation fell 4p to 330 ahead of results due Saturday.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.1178/88	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3238/41	Canadian dollars
	3.1725/35	West German marks
	3.5840/55	Dutch guilders
	2.6735/45	Swiss francs
	63.50/53	Belgian francs
	9.7075/71.25	French francs
	1950.5/1.5	Italian lire
	254.00/10	Japanese yen
	9.0575/0675	Swedish crowns
	9.1750/1850	Norwegian crowns
	11.3150/3250	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	301.80/302.30	U.S. dollars

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 24, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is no time to put into motion any comprehensive plan, but the afternoon and evening find you able to reduce some important plans to a workable success.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A private worry can upset you in the morning, but tonight you can be with charming persons and be happy.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Take no risks where money matters are concerned. Then later you can get out to new sites with those who are charming.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) In the morning, you could have an argument with your mate if you go out for pleasure so be together for fun later.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Don't involve yourself in some argument between a family tie and an outsider and go after some benefits that are coming.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Don't leave your work for some outside affair in the morning, or you could lose a good deal. Later you will be happy.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Wait until the evening to have a good time and come to far better terms with partners during the daytime.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Handle that situation at home on a better day than this, but later get your environment in far better order.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) The morning is fine for working away at duties you have assumed and later you can enjoy recreational activities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Your mind is pretty much on home and family. Have guests into your home this evening.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Use tact in dealing with partners in the morning, but later you can have better understanding due to planetary positions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Refrain from making changes in investments in the morning, but tonight you know what is best to do about them.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Restrictive conditions are present in the morning, but tonight you can make better plans for the future.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 25, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime finds you with all kinds of possibilities to enjoy the loftier and more worthwhile things of life and to aid whatever can bring you long time advancement toward a well-organized venture.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Early contact advisors and plan the future more intelligently, but tonight be concerned with the cultural side of life.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You can come to a fine understanding with friends and allies and achieve much today. Make plans for the future.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Smile more in the outside world and you will gain your aims more readily and the backing you need from bigwigs.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You can make a fine impression on newcomers today so make yourself available to them.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Be willing to do what the one you love most desires and make this person happy. Spend some money on a new outfit.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) If you show your appreciation for the alliance of your partners, they will cooperate with you more readily.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A good day to add art pieces, music, etc. to your environment and be happier in it in the future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) During spare time see those persons you truly like, but be sure to handle business matters well first.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A day when you can have much fun at your home and be happy. Keep active and cheerful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Contact persons you admire in the outside world and plan to see more of them in the future. Take it easy tonight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get your property and other possessions beautified and made more valuable now. Be active and happy.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You arise feeling aces and can get much accomplished today and be happy at duties. Later see as many good friends as you can.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will have much ability at whatever is connected with beauty, color, music, embellishments, and the like and will also be good at business. A very artistic person here who will constantly be perusing books, going to museums, art classes and be quite popular.

THE BETTER HALF.

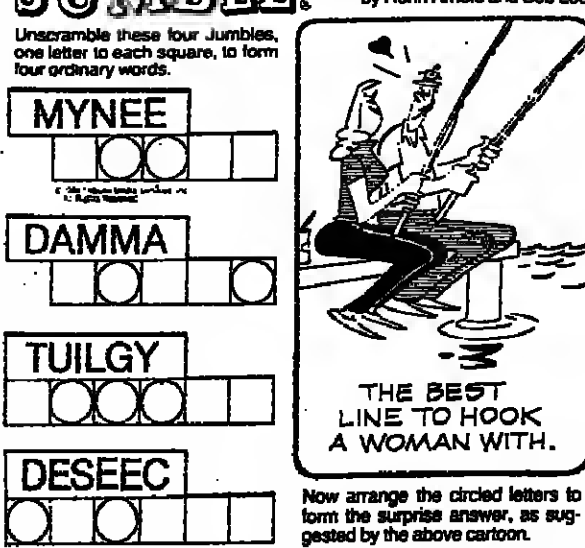
By Harris



"I'll be home late, Dear. My boss has a new pair of shoes that haven't been kissed yet!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: "O O O O O - O O O O O" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: AUDIT LEGAL STURDY PRISON

Answer: What to do when confronted with a knotty problem — PULL STRINGS

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Chernenko: Soviets will be constructive at arms talks

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko said in a message Wednesday that Moscow intended to conduct new arms talks with Washington in a constructive manner and hoped the United States would take a similar approach.

Mr. Chernenko, whose absence from public view since Dec. 27 has given rise to diplomatic speculation over his health, made his first reference to the new negotiations in a message to a Soviet peace movement conference in Moscow.

He said the key task facing the world was to avoid an arms race in space and to eliminate nuclear weapons on earth.

"Proceeding from this the Soviet Union has made an initiative for opening Soviet-American talks on space and nuclear arms. We intend to conduct them in a businesslike and constructive manner," he said.

"Let us hope that the United States will also adopt an upright and responsible approach," Mr. Chernenko added. The official Soviet News Agency TASS published his message.

The superpowers agreed in Geneva earlier this month to discuss medium-range and strategic nuclear weapons as well as space arms.

On Tuesday, the Communist Party daily Pravda printed a telegram from Mr. Chernenko to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Western diplomats said it was Kremlin practice to publish messages signed by Soviet leaders not seen for some time. During the late President Yuri Andropov's six-month final illness many messages and articles bearing his name appeared in the official media.

Mr. Chernenko, 73, was last seen at a Kremlin medal ceremony last December. Speculation over his health increased sharply after a meeting of Warsaw Pact leaders was cancelled at the last minute on Jan. 14.

The diplomats said Soviet officials had since confirmed that the summit was put off because of Mr. Chernenko's health.

Meanwhile in Washington President Reagan has replied to Soviet criticism of his arms control policies with an assurance that he will take imminent new talks with the utmost seriousness.

Mr. Reagan also said after meeting his arms negotiators Tuesday that he would not seek a one-sided advantage in the new negotiations but would strive for an agreement that was fair to Washington and Moscow and would enhance world security.

The president issued his statement as a commentary by TASS attacked his inaugural speech on Monday.

In the speech, Mr. Reagan said he wanted an accord but would press ahead with his futuristic "Star Wars" anti-missile defence system despite objections from the Kremlin.

The Soviet Union, which walked out of nuclear arms control negotiations 14 months ago, agreed on Jan. 8 to resume the talks.

"I view the negotiating commitments we undertook two weeks ago with the Soviets in Geneva with the utmost seriousness," Mr. Reagan said after meeting his three new negotiators, Max Kampelman, John Tower and Maynard Gliman, and senior diplomatic and military advisers.

He said the United States would put forward concrete ideas when the talks with Moscow resumed and he wanted the Soviet negotiators to take a similar approach.

Officials said they hoped the talks could begin in Geneva in March.

The talks will follow a triple track, dealing separately with medium-range nuclear missiles, intercontinental strategic missiles and space weapons.

There is no agreement yet on whether progress in one area will depend on achievements in one or both of the other areas.

U.S. plane crash in Honduras kills 21

TEGUCIGALPA (R) — Twenty-one American servicemen are feared to have died when a U.S. military transport plane crashed into the sea less than 500 metres from the Honduran coast Tuesday, a U.S. official said.

Robert Callahan, press spokesman at the U.S. embassy, told reporters the C-130A cargo plane came down in stormy weather near the port of Trujillo where it was heading from Panama.

Honduran officials said a rescue operation had not got under way because gales and three metre high waves prevented helicopters taking off and patrol boats approaching.

Mr. Callahan said he heard that some Honduran vessels had ventured out to search for wreckage.

A U.S. military spokesman here said there was no indication that the crash was caused by hostile action. He said an investigation board was being formed.

He said the plane was on a routine airlift mission from Howard Air Force Base in Panama to Trujillo.

The United States has maintained hundreds of servicemen in Honduras to train Honduran troops and to take part in a series of joint military exercises designed to keep pressure on the leftist Sandinist government in neighbouring Nicaragua.

2 Frenchmen involved in Indian spy scandal

NEW DELHI (R) — Two French businessmen were involved in India's spy scandal and both left the country as authorities began to break up the network, the United News of India (UNI) news agency reported Wednesday.

UNI quoted senior intelligence sources as saying one unidentified French businessman left the country last week shortly before arrests began on Thursday. The second left on a scheduled flight three days later.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said exposure of the extensive espionage ring had led to the arrests of 15 people, including six of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's office.

Intelligence sources said the suspected spy chief foreign contact was a French businessman working with a multinational company in Delhi, PTI reported. He left India on Saturday night.

Neither news agency named the two men.

France's deputy military attaché in Delhi, Lt. Col. Alain Bolley, flew home to Paris on Monday amid allegations, which he denied, that he was involved.

"Two French nationals besides French Embassy Deputy Military Attaché Bolley were involved in the massive espionage ring busted last week," UNI reported.

"Sources said that the first French national, who was engaged in business and frequently visited India, slipped out after one of the suspects tipped him off that his activities were being watched," it added.

UNI said teams of senior Indian intelligence officers had left for Paris and London to pursue inquiries into the scandal.

A French embassy spokesman has refused to comment on reports of French links with the spy ring.

The Times of India newspaper said more than 1,500 people have been questioned so far by Indian intelligence officers.

PTI quoted intelligence sources as saying more arrests were likely in the affair in which defecation, finance and security secrets were reported to have been sold for as little as a bottle of whisky.

It said Tuesday that two officials in President Zail Singh's office were also suspected members of the ring.

The Indian government has refused to concede opposition demands for full details on the scandal, saying they would jeopardise investigations.

But Mr. Gandhi stepped in Tuesday to declare that his former top aide P. C. Alexander, who quit last Friday after at least four of his assistants were arrested on suspicion of spying, was not himself involved.

He told parliament: "A very senior official has resigned. There is nothing against the individual. It is in the highest propriety of civil services that he has taken the decision."

PTI said Mr. Gandhi, who told parliament his government was assessing possible damage to national interests, Tuesday went through classified documents seized from arrested suspects.

COLUMNS 768

Family watches TV as house burns

BIRMINGHAM, England (R) — A mother and her two daughters carried on watching a television film while their house burned around them, the fire brigade said. Firemen in breathing masks ran into the house through dense smoke after the father told them his family was inside. "They found his wife and two daughters in the back room watching television through the haze," said fireman Paul Cullen. "One of the daughters was smoking a cigarette. The wife was coughing but I'm not sure whether that was from the smoke of the fire or from her daughter's cigarette." Firemen removed the three women, a dog and a "big fluffy cat" without injury.

11 Britons deported from Saudi Arabia

LONDON (R) — Saudi Arabia has deported 11 Britons arrested at a New Year party for drinking alcohol, the Foreign Office said Wednesday. The Britons could have faced a flogging under the kingdom's Islamic laws prohibiting alcohol. A spokesman said the Britons were taken from prison and put on a flight from Jeddah to London Tuesday. He said the Britons had not been put on trial. "As far as we are concerned the matter is now closed," the spokesman told Reuters. British press reports said the Britons had been celebrating at a New Year party at a private home on Jan. 4 and were arrested when a neighbour complained to police.

Fake medicine distributed in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Thousands of fake but harmless bottles of children's medicine have been sold across Israel, police and health authorities said. Police said they were holding four men suspected of manufacturing fake packaging and labels for the bottles and filling them with the wrong dosages of the original medicine. State Television displayed the questionable pills and syrups on its main evening news programme Tuesday and said anxious mothers had been phoning it for advice since the story broke earlier in the day.

Cher tops list of worst dressed women

LOS ANGELES (R) — American entertainer Cher headed an annual list of the world's 10 worst dressed women issued by United States fashion designer Richard Blackwell. Second and third places also went to Americans — Sharlene Wells, winner of the Miss America beauty contest, and President Reagan's daughter, Patti Davis, respectively. British actress Joan Collins, who topped the list last year, was "promoted" to fifth position this year. But Princess Diana, wife of the heir to the British throne who headed the 1983 list, was described by Blackwell as now among his biggest favourites. She figured among a list of the women he calls the fabulous fashion independents. Asked to name the woman he regards as the worst overall dresser of all time, the designer, known professionally as Mr. Blackwell, said unhesitatingly: "Elizabeth Taylor."

Lawyer denies Bardot underwent surgery

PARIS (R) — Brigitte Bardot's lawyer has denied reports that the French actress underwent breast cancer surgery last year and threatened legal action against media carrying the news. Gilles Dreyfus, long-time lawyer for the former sex kitten, issued a "formal absolute denial" of the cancer reports in a telephone conversation with Reuters. Reports that Bardot was operated on were "an attack against her private life," an offence under French law, Mr. Dreyfus said. He said he had won 19 such cases against newspapers publishing reports on the actress last year.

Reagan rejects violent protests against abortion

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has condemned violent attacks against abortion clinics by militant anti-abortionists.

In his first public speech to an anti-abortion rally he told an estimated 70,000 demonstrators: "We cannot condone the threatening or taking of human life to protest the taking of human life by the way of abortion."

Mr. Reagan was referring to about 30 bomb attacks on abortion clinics across the country since May 1982.

The president is known to favour a reversal of the supreme court's decision 12 years ago to legalise abortion. Pro-choice groups

are worried that he will appoint conservatives to replace five supreme court judges who are near retirement age.

Last year, the Reagan administration cut off funds to international organisations financing abortions overseas, including its 25 per cent contribution to the \$38 million budget of the U.N. Fund for Population Assistance.

After Tuesday's rally outside the White House, the anti-abortionists marched to the supreme court where 29 people were arrested for violating a law prohibiting protests on the building's steps.

New Zealand stands firm on nuclear warship ban

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — New Zealand stood firm on its ban on nuclear powered or armed warships Wednesday, with acting Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer asserting the ban was justified because the South Pacific was not a region of great strategic significance.

Mr. Palmer, speaking in a radio interview, said New Zealand's stand was not incompatible with the Australia, New Zealand and United States (ANZUS) alliance.

Both the Australian and U.S. governments have expressed concern that the defence alliance could be ruptured if New Zealand refuses U.S. nuclear warships access to its ports.

S. Korea begins election campaigning

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan Wednesday formally opened campaigning by political parties for next month's elections for a new 276-member parliament, expected to be dominated by his Democratic Justice Party (DJP).

More than 600 people are expected to register as candidates for 184 parliament seats to be decided by direct voting on Feb. 12, electoral officials said.

The other 92 seats will be allocated to parties in proportion to the number of seats they win in the poll.

Campaigning before the presidential declaration was banned, but opposition and government camps have accused each other of illegal electioneering, including allegations of payments to voters.

Opposition parties have said the DJP is certain to retain its parliamentary supremacy because of political curbs and an election system they term unfair.

Yi Min-U, president of the New Korean Democratic Party (NKDP) formed last week, said Tuesday the government was paying only lip-service to fair elections and trying to prolong what he called the military dictatorship.

The NKDP, which hopes to win more than 20 parliamentary seats, has been joined in an alliance by supporters of such leading political dissidents as Kim Dae-jung and Kim Young-sam. Both men are banned from politics until 1988.

Kim Young-sam, who staged a 23-day hunger strike in 1983,

heads a dissident group called the Council for Promotion of Democracy.

Kim Dae-jung has said he will return home on Feb. 8 from the United States where he has lived since being freed by Gen. Chun in 1982 from a 20-year jail sentence for sedition.

The main opposition Democratic Party (DKP) hopes to take more than 80 seats compared with 73 now, party sources said.

Geo. Chun's DJP currently holds 152 seats.

The opposition has called for full liberal democracy including direct presidential elections, rather than the present indirect election by about 5,000 deputies, a free press and free labour movements.

GOVERN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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ANSWERS TO BRIDGE QUIZ

whether or not you can make six diamonds — a small slam must be laydown and the grand should depend only on whether partner has a singleton club or a void. Rather, this is an exercise in tactics — at what level will the opponents allow you to buy the contract to close out the rubber? We suggest you bid only five diamonds and, if the opponents compete again, take the push to slam. That way they might think you are stretching and let you play the hand.

Q.4 — Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

9 ♠ AKQ10952 ♦ 953 ♠ 83

Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one club. What do you bid now? A. — Your hand rates to take seven tricks and, according to the Rule of Two and Three at this vulnerability, that is enough for a preemptive jump to four hearts. This vigorous preemptive action might prevent the opponents from locating a spade fit, or from reaching a slam in one of their suits.

Q.5 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ K85 ♦ AJ543 ♦ 982 ♠ 72

Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond? A. — You don't have quite enough to force to game — you need an invitational sequence. Start by using the Stayman convention. If partner responds to your two club inquiry with two hearts, raise to three hearts; if he bids two diamonds, bid two Q.1 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ J6 ♦ KAKJ98 ♠ AKQJ10

The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 1 ♦ Pass Pass 1 ♥ 3 ♦ Pass 4 ♦ Pass

What action do you take? A. — It is true that you could make slam if partner has as little as five diamonds and the ace of spades. However, chances of partner holding that hand are slight — he could have cue-bid three spades before raising

diamonds. Indeed, it is quite possible that you have three fast losers. Nevertheless, we would gamble out five diamonds. Opponents have been known not to cash three fast tricks when they hold them, and they might have only two.

Q.2 — Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ A ♠ 9852 ♦ K1063 ♠ Q85

The bidding has proceeded: East South West North 1 ♠ 1 ♥ Pass 1 NT Pass

What action do you take? A. — While your unbalanced hand suggests a suit contract would be preferable to no trump, we still suggest you pass. Partner has shown little interest in spades and, should you bid two diamonds and should he pass that, the opponents could come to life and locate a fit in the master suit. Pass.

Q.3 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ AQ63 ♠ KQ93 ♦ A10 ♠ 982

The bidding has proceeded: West North East South 3 ♠ 3 ♦ 5 ♠ ?

What do you bid now? A. — This is not a question of hearts; and if he shows a spade suit by bidding two spades, bid two no trump. The latter two bids show a hand of 8-9 points with either a four- or five-card heart suit, depending on whether you introduce your suit freely.

Q.6 — As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ KQ63 ♠ A8 ♦ AK83 ♠ 952

The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ ?

What do you bid now? A. — You could barge into slam and perhaps suffer the indignity of having the opponents start by cashing two club tricks. Or you could approach slam more accurately by first bidding three diamonds. That is forcing.

When you later support spades, partner will realize that you were cue-bidding in support of his suit. Now he will be able to judge the potential of the hand without getting your side overboard.

Filipino military chief charged with Aquino killing

MANILA (R) — The Philippine Ombudsman Wednesday filed charges against Armed Forces Chief General Fabian Ver of being an accomplice in the murders of opposition leader Benigno Aquino and Rolando Galman, the man said by the military to have shot the former senator.

The Ombudsman, Bernardo Fernandez, told a news conference Gen. Ver and eight other people had been named as accessories in the killings and 17 others as principle accused.

Mr. Fernandez said he had recommended that the 17 principal accused be held without bail while Gen. Ver and the eight others accused of being accessories should be freed on bail of 15,000 pesos (\$750).

Arrest warrants were being prepared and would be served within 10 days, he added.

Gen. Ver, a kinsman and close confidant of President Ferdinand Marcos, has been on leave of absence since he was implicated in Sen. Aquino's death by an official inquiry. He has said he was not involved.

Sen. Aquino was killed at Manila Airport on Aug. 21, 1983, as he was returning from exile in the United States. Galman was shot moments later by security guards.

The 17 chief accused included soldiers who escorted Sen. Aquino from the airplane that brought him home.

Among them is Brig. Gen. Luterio Custodio, head of the Aviation Security Command, which provided security at the airport.

The majority report of the commission of inquiry last October concluded that all 26 were part of a military conspiracy to kill Sen. Aquino.

British committee decries abuse of diplomatic privileges

LONDON (R) — A British parliamentary committee Wednesday cast doubt on the extent to which Western countries could prevent other states from using diplomatic privilege as a cover for international terrorism.

The House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee was commenting on two diplomatic incidents in London last year — one involving a shooting at the Libyan mission, the other an attempted kidnapping of a Nigerian exile.

In a report to parliament, the committee welcomed efforts among Western governments to counteract international terrorism.

But it added: "It seems unlikely that Western cooperation alone can ever substantially affect the abuse of immunities by other countries, even in the field of terrorism and still less in the wider field of diplomatic immunities generally."

The report arose from a shooting last April at the Libyan People's Bureau (Embassy) in which a British policeman was killed and a number of Libyan demonstrators were wounded by bullets fired from the building.

The committee later extended its enquiries to cover an abortive

attempt in July to kidnap former Nigerian Minister Umaru Dikko to Lagos where he is wanted on corruption charges.

Mr. Dikko was found by British customs officials bound and drugged inside a crate at Stansted Airport near London after being abducted in the street outside his home. Three people are awaiting trial for involvement in the kidnapping.

The committee welcomed the government's acceptance that whatever inviolability the crate might have merited as a diplomatic bag, this could not take precedence over human life.

It was more critical of the government over events leading up to the Libyan People's Bureau shooting and a subsequent police siege of the building.

It said it was undesirable to have treated the bureau as a diplomatic mission in the early months of 1984, following its takeover by a revolutionary committee. The government should have taken a tougher line in demanding that Tripoli nominate an official head of mission.

The committee recommended that the Foreign Office should warn all diplomats they would be expelled if they broke the criminal law.

GOTRAM
By Louis Sautrey

ACROSS	DOWN	ACROSS	DOWN
1 Cheat	1 Artisan	1 Piled	1 Teaspoon
2 Search	2 OPEC nation	2 Odd	2 Surround
3 Many Scots	3 "Florentine"	3 July fruit	3 Ripening
4 Informally	4 "Florentine"	4 Flatter	4 Undifferentiated
5 Harbinger	5 "Florentine"	5 Complete	5 Yale student
6 Algerian port	6 "Florentine"	6 Magnify	6 Native of
7 Fair-ale	7 "Florentine"	7 Roman roads	7 Winter visitor
8 Topper	8 "Florentine"	8 Highflyer	8 Landlord's due
9 North St. group	9 "Florentine"	9 Unlucky tree	9 Linen tree
10 Conical	10 "Florentine"	10 Make a margin	10 Ode
11 Big city	11 "Florentine"	11 Toothed wheel	11 Present
12 Problem	12 "Florentine"	12 Apple drink	12 Possessive
13 Secretary's concern	13 "Florentine"	13 Non ending	13 Musk used in
14 Instant	14 "Florentine"	14 Race distance	14 Perfumery
15 Time	15 "Florentine"	15 Ship person	15 Olive genus
16 Realistic	16 "Florentine"	16 Have a ball	16 Softly
17 Substantial	17 "Florentine"	17 US citizens	17 Vilest
18 In a frenzy	18 "Florentine"	18 Jason's wife	18 Middle-aged
19 Not at home	19 "Florentine"	19 Dried	19 Onassis
20 Irregularly	20 "Florentine"	20 Pretty picture	20 Linen tree
21 Big Apple	21 "Florentine"	21 Check the books	21 Thrive
22 Super berry	22 "Florentine"	22 Apple drink	22 Occasy paint
23 "With"	23 "Florentine"	23 Non ending	23 Made over
24 Canyon tool	24 "Florentine"	24 Race distance	24 Superfactive
25 NY word	25 "Florentine"	25 Ship person	25 Speechless
26 Serenading waste	26 "Florentine"	26 Have a ball	26 People
27 Life-saving	27 "Florentine"	27 US citizens	27 Enlarge
28 Karaoke	28 "Florentine"	28 Jason's wife	28 Complete
29 Paved surface	29 "Florentine"	29 Dried	29 Persuade
30 Captain's	30 "Florentine"	30 Pretty picture	30 "One — Shy"
31 Mayor's	31 "Florentine"	31 Check the books	31 Billiard shot
32 Scott's	32 "Florentine"	32 Apple drink	32 Hollow stem
33 Pedestal	33 "Florentine"	33 Non ending	32 Sp. house
34 Occupants	34 "Florentine"	34 Race distance	32 Gull term

Diagrams by

19 X 19, by Lars Alexander

20 X 20, by Lars Alexander

21 X 21, by Lars Alexander

22 X 22, by Lars Alexander

23 X 23, by Lars Alexander

24 X 24, by Lars Alexander

25 X 25, by Lars Alexander

26 X 26, by Lars Alexander

27 X 27, by Lars Alexander

28 X 28, by Lars Alexander

29 X 29, by Lars Alexander

30 X 30, by Lars Alexander

31 X 31, by Lars Alexander

32 X 32, by Lars Alexander

33 X 33, by Lars Alexander

34 X 34, by Lars Alexander

35 X 35, by Lars Alexander

36 X 36, by Lars Alexander

37 X 37, by Lars Alexander

38 X 38, by Lars Alexander

39 X 39, by Lars Alexander

40 X 40, by Lars Alexander

41 X 41, by Lars Alexander